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Palestinian Affairs

PNC Official: Peres-'Abbas Meeting May Occur Soon

NC1208125193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] secretary Muhammad Subayh has stressed the importance of holding direct meetings between Palestinian and Israeli officials at any level to discuss the current peace process and implement UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian issue.

Subayh was commenting on a possible meeting to be held between PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas "Abu-Mazin" and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Geneva or another European capital before the 11th round of negotiations. He said such a meeting is now in the cards.

Subayh remarked that it is time Israel recognized the PLO and stopped dealing with it indirectly. He said Israel knows perfectly well that the PLO has the final say in the occupied territories, that the negotiating delegation is the PLO's delegation, and that any Palestinian political decision will be the PLO's decision.

Subayh pointed out that a meeting between Peres and Abu-Mazin can facilitate the PLO's return to the negotiating table and the resumption of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

Press reports earlier today said a meeting between Abu-Mazin and Peres might be held before the end of August.

Abu-Sharif Speculates on Meeting

TA1208125693 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 11 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Excerpts] The moment of truth came in the meeting held last Sunday [8 August] night between Yasir 'Arafat and the leadership of the territories. The latter told 'Arafat in no uncertain terms: "The moment Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Nabil Sha'th, and others speak to the Israelis we are out of the picture. If you do not need us, then please, we are out."

'Arafat was outraged. Aiming his barbs mainly at Hanan 'Ashrawi, he retorted: "One more trick by you and your friends or one more refusal to follow my orders, and you will be spared the aggravation. You will be out." [passage omitted]

I spoke to Bassam Abu-Sharif shortly after the delegation arrived in Tunis. He was unfazed and told me: "They ('Ashrawi and al-Husayni) have suddenly become tougher than us, but all their threats to resign are out of place. What is it? (Laughing) Have they become the rejectionist front?"

Although the deliberations with the leadership of the territories were not yet over, Abu-Sharif said he believed the storm would calm down and a line of action would be set. "The moment of truth has come," Abu-Sharif said, referring to the peace talks. "We have no time to quarrel now, the peace talks must continue. I repeat: The transfer of the self-government's powers to the Palestinians will begin by the end of the year. A meeting will take place in September between Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat, with Rabin's knowledge. This is my own personal opinion." [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi: Israel Moving Toward Talks With PLO

TA1308111493

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT reports on a recorded telephone interview in English between Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, in Amman, and Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus. When asked whether the delegates now regard themselves as official representatives as the PLO, 'Ashrawi replies: "I think it is the other way around. It is the PLO that is the official representative of the Palestinian people."

'Ashrawi goes on to note: "Very clearly, we are not elected representatives of the Palestinian people under occupation. We were appointed by the PLO. The whole delegation was formed by the PLO and everybody knew that. We were not elected by the Palestinians under occupation to represent them. We were assigned a task of negotiating, and this assignment came by the PLO."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 13 August reports that "Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said that it appears that the Israeli Government is moving toward direct negotiations with the PLO. 'Ashrawi asserted that if Israel seeks a real peace agreement, the natural and only way to accomplish that is through negotiations with the body that represents the Palestinian people."

Announces Withdrawal of Resignation

LD1208200993 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian negotiating team, announced today the withdrawal of her resignation, which she had tendered along with the resignations of Faysal al-Husayni and Sa'ib 'Uraygat to the PLO Executive Committee. This statement came at the end of the meeting of the Palestinian leadership with members of the negotiating team. Faysal al-Husayni announced this evening that members of the team will become representatives of the PLO in the peace negotiations.

The meeting issued a communique that included a number of resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee, pertaining to the protection of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the continuation of the national dialogue within the framework of the structures

of the Organisation. Also the communique said that the Executive Committee had decided to take organizational measures to consolidate the role of the Palestinian team in the negotiations.

Comments on Tunis Meetings

TA1308072693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the negotiating delegation, in Amman by Itay Engel and Gilat Levi—live; in English]

[Text] [Engel] Good morning, Mrs. 'Ashrawi.

['Ashrawi] Good morning.

[Engel] First of all, is becoming a member of the PLO coordination committee the compromise you have been reaching for from Tunis?

['Ashrawi] No, that is an oversimplification of issues. We had an accumulative approach. There were several issues that had to be discussed: some of them procedural, some of them dealing with mechanisms, some of them dealing with strategy and policies. These are issues that first had to be laid out in a forthright and responsible manner. We presented a work plan as well and suggestions. This is one of the outcomes. This is a result of all these issues, but it is only one procedural or technical issue. And I would not call it the major outcome.

[Gilat] Therefore, so far, you would not define your trip to Tunisia and meeting with Yasir 'Arafat as a success, if you have not succeeded in reaching all you wanted to reach?

['Ashrawi] No, I thought it was a very fruitful and constructive meeting. We discussed with our leadership in a very candid manner all the problems, all the issues, and, as I said, all the suggestions that we had for improving the work.

[Engel] Mrs. 'Ashrawi, is the question of trying to get Yasir 'Arafat himself to the negotiations table still on your agenda?

['Ashrawi] Well, we think ultimately as far as serious Palestinian decisionmaking can be made, certainly the PLO has to make up the decisions, and any agreements would have to be made with the PLO. We continue to be a delegation which is trying to carry out the negotiations, but as usual, agreements always take place between governments and ultimately this is the issue. We are not doing this in a backhanded manner, we have said this all along from the beginning. That we are carrying out a negotiating responsibility and that any agreement of course would have to be worked out between the Government of Israel and the PLO.

[Levi] Did Mr. 'Arafat agree to the document of principles that you gave to Warren Christopher during your meeting in Jerusalem in response to the American document?

['Ashrawi] Yes, he did. Actually, he agreed to the amendments we carried out. We have been working closely on these issues, and we do not present any official document unless it has the approval of everybody concerned.

[Levi] Mrs. 'Ashrawi, one last question. We have the renewal of the peace talks at the end of this month. What do you expect from this round of talks?

['Ashrawi] Well, let us hope that this round will be qualitatively different from earlier rounds, because no side can afford a repetition of the earlier rounds without much progress. Now, we are going—once a decision is taken to participate in the next round—to take the issues very seriously and are going to present positions that are liable to create qualitative progress, if there is willingness and the political will on all sides, particularly on the Israeli side, to deal with these issues seriously, then I think we can move ahead.

[Engel] You know, some people say that the real talks are going on behind the scenes. Do you share this view?

['Ashrawi] Well, there is nothing wrong with that. If there are serious talks between people who can deliver then I think that is very constructive. And, as you know, in all negotiations, talks were never limited only to the negotiating table. I think that would be a positive move if it is done in a studied and serious way.

[Levi] Thank you very much, Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi from the Palestinian delegation and now from the coordination committee of the PLO. Good morning.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 13 August also carries a report on a short recorded telephone interview in English with Palestinian spokesperson Hanan 'Ashrawi in Amman. Commenting on the establishment of the Palestinian coordination committee on the peace process, 'Ashrawi says: "Well, it is a special steering committee that combines both the leadership committee from the occupied territories and the follow up committee that used to supervise the talks from Tunis. So, in a sense it is a merged committee that contains the leadership of both. I do not think that gives anybody an official position, but, at the same time, it emphasizes the close relationship and the indivisibility of the Palestinians under occupation and in exile." 'Ashrawi goes on to note: "There is no real change. It is just a structural amendment in order to improve the quality of our work in order to make procedural matters easier and in order to make decisionmaking more solid and perhaps more positive."]

Executive Committee Reinforces Delegation's Role

LD1208190293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Under the chairmanship of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO Executive Committee discussed—following an extended

meeting of the Palestinian leadership lasting the three days, 10-12 August 1993—the current developments at the Palestinian level and also the issues connected with the political process in the light of the tour of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher.

The Executive Committee made a number of decisions in connection with the development of the national action formula inside the occupied homeland to protect the intifadah, consolidate the popular steadfastness and national institutions, to continue the national dialogue within the framework of PLO bodies, and to establish national points of reference at the level of each region and position in our occupied homeland.

The Executive Committee also discussed the task of the Palestinian delegation and its role. In this regard it decided to reject the resignation request tendered by three of the brother members of the delegation and affirmed that any individual or collective remarks can be solved and dealt with in accordance with the principles of Palestinian democracy.

The Executive Committee placed high value on the role of the brother members of the delegation, their commitment, and their concern for the interest of the national march under the leadership of the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of our Palestinian people.

The Executive Committee also took a number of organizational decisions that can improve and strengthen the role of the Palestinian delegation and its ability to perform its national task in defending our people's rights and its great goals. The Executive Committee decided to continue discussing the forthcoming political steps in light of the evaluation that has been carried out of the results of the previous rounds of talks, particularly after these talks have reached a negative result on the Palestinian course, a matter that requires action in all spheres to confront this impasse.

The Executive Committee decided to continue the action to lift the siege which our people and its national institutions inside and outside the homeland are suffering, which constitutes part of the pressures that are exercised on the Palestinian people and its leadership to harm its abilities to protect the national stance and stand up to these challenges.

Our great people has become used to facing up to such difficult conditions and overcoming them by relying on its national energies and its unswerving belief in its constant national rights, in the forefront of which is [the right of] return, self-determination, and the establishment of its independent state, with Holy Jerusalem for its capital.

Delegates Discuss Changes in Relationship With PLO

Explain Reasons Behind Resignations

NC1208140493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, 12 Aug (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Palestinian negotiating delegation's steering committee; Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's official spokeswoman; and Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the delegation's deputy leader, have announced that the PLO Executive Committee, meeting at noon today under the chairmanship of president Yasir 'Arafat, rejected their resignations.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, announced that the resignations issue is over and this chapter has been definitely closed.

Al-Husayni, speaking at Tunis airport prior to his departure for Amman, said that the PLO Executive Committee, after a thorough discussion of the causes leading to the resignations, refused to accept them and adopted several measures to handle this issue and its causes.

Al-Husayni said that the Executive Committee, which will deal with all the issues behind the resignations, has created a mechanism governing the activity of the negotiating delegation in the upcoming stage. He denied any disagreement between the delegation and the PLO and noted that the working mechanism needed reassessment and this was achieved during the delegation members' meetings with the Palestinian leadership in the past few days.

Al-Husayni declined to divulge the causes that made him resign, noting that since the causes have been remedied, there is no longer any reason to speak of the issue.

In a statement at Tunis airport, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi did not disclose the reasons that prompted the Palestinian delegates to tender their resignations. 'Ashrawi merely stated that the resignations were submitted because of internal reasons concerning Palestinian work. She added that some of these reasons are political and some procedural. She stated: We have dealt with the issue in a responsible way and in a democratic manner that safeguards our national interests.

'Ashrawi added: We had a frank, constructive, and positive discussion of the problems, issues, and stands at hand.

'Ashrawi expressed her satisfaction with the discussions that took place. She said that an agreement has been reached to draw up a mechanism for Palestinian efforts in the future so as to ensure complete coordination between the negotiating team and the Palestinian leadership and internal coordination between the follow-up, command, and steering committees.

'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian delegation will participate in the coming phase of the peace negotiations. She

pointed out that no date has yet been set for the resumption of the said negotiations. She added that the PLO is committed in principle to the peace process and the Palestinian national program concerning this process. She noted that this commitment will remain in force unless the Palestine National Council were to meet and reverse its decision to participate in the peace talks.

'Ashrawi said that Palestinian participation in the coming round of talks will take place within the framework of Arab coordination and a united Arab stance. She pointed out that there has been no Arab decision to withdraw from the peace process and that, indeed, the issue of participating or not participating in the next round has not been discussed in depth.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi affirmed that the affairs of the Palestinian delegation are in good order, that the PLO Executive Committee has rejected the delegates' resignations, and that this chapter is now closed.

He expressed satisfaction with the results of the Palestinian leadership's meetings, declaring that the discussions were positive and constructive.

'Abd-al-Shafi explained that new mechanisms for Palestinian action and the negotiating delegation's activities have been introduced and that all people in leadership positions will try to do their work in an organized, simple way and without problems.

Asked if the Palestinians would participate in the next round of negotiations, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that when a date is set for this new round, the Arab coordination committee, comprising the foreign ministers, will meet and decide on an appropriate course of action. He explained that an Arab decision on this matter must be adopted unanimously.

Asked whether the members of the negotiating delegation would be made PLO members so that the negotiations would become direct PLO-Israel talks, 'Abd-al-Shafi said this issue was not discussed.

He added that one issue which was discussed centered on forming a collective PLO leadership instead of the current leadership structure. He said no basic objection was raised to this proposal.

'Abd-al-Shafi declared that the PLO is committed to the peace process, noting that this is an existing and firm position. He added that the PLO has not abandoned its demands. Asked if he will participate in the next round of talks in case the Palestinians decide to participate, he said he would do so.

Comment on PLO Meetings

JN1208181793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1727 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, returned to Amman a short time ago after holding talks with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis. Our correspondent interviewed a number of delegation members:

[Begin recording] [Television correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, is the chapter of resignations over?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, they were not show resignations. Rather, they were for substantive reasons. These substantive reasons were discussed in depth during the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and during other meetings, including Fatah Central Committee meetings. We left there with good impressions and with decisions we believe will resolve all future problems and will allow us to continue this march in a manner that will achieve our great people's objectives.

['Ashrawi] The problems and substantive issues which led to these resignations were diagnosed. Practical and constructive proposals were made and a future action plan was laid down in order to overcome these problems and define our future course, both politically and organizationally. We judge matters by their results. We hope this issue has resulted in rectifying action and in a qualitative step forward in future Palestinian action.

[Dhiyab] Let us now talk about the political reasons. What are these reasons?

['Ashrawi] Some necessary domestic issues were discussed with the leadership in a candid and responsible manner. These issues are not for discussion through the media. They need to be dealt with through an integrated Palestinian strategy to deal with the requirements of the current stage and the peace process. [end recording]

Al-Husayni: Team Now Represents PLO

JN1308071293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has stressed that the Palestinian negotiators have clearly, indisputably become the representatives of the PLO at the peace negotiations. Al-Husayni said: Things are now clear. The PLO is the true negotiator. The delegation is the PLO, and we are part of the PLO.

He added: Had the PLO leadership accepted my resignation and that of Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Hanan 'Ashrawi, we would not have continued to be members of the delegation. Consequently, we are again members of this delegation based on a very clear decision from the PLO leadership.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, told us that the meeting held in Tunis among the PLO leadership and the negotiating delegation members resulted in the creation of a joint committee from among the two sides—the negotiators and

PLO members—to act as an organizational tool to bolster the delegation's action and enable it to perform its task. This committee is chaired by Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the follow-up committee.

Concerning the PLO Executive Committee's decision to establish national authorities [marji'iyat wataniyah] in every region and locality in the occupied territories, Hanan 'Ashrawi pointed out that the objective of these authorities is to organize internal political and administrative action and to form a direct link with PLO institutions in a way that could be considered a precedent marking the beginning of the PLO leadership's direct participation in administering the occupied territories.

Changes Further Detailed

JN1308134993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1040 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the negotiating delegation, by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi from the "With the Midday Events" program on 13 Aug; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: What kind of change has taken place in the situation that existed before you, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat submitted your letters of resignation?

[Al-Husayni] I cannot say there have been dramatic or basic changes. I can say, however, that the mechanism we used has been improved and developed. This serves our actions under the leadership of the PLO.

[Mu'addi] Yes. What is the task of these authorities the PLO Executive Committee has decided to create? Does this mean the beginning of the PLO Executive Committee's acceptance of and participation in the implementation of autonomy?

[Al-Husayni] There is no connection between these two issues. There is a specific Palestinian objective, i.e., that we should engage in a transition stage that will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state at the final stage. Consequently, we do not talk about autonomy before talking about a stage at which power is being transferred gradually from the Israelis to the Palestinians. This is a very clear issue. The authorities which were established constitute a development of the existing authorities. There was an authority to follow up the negotiations process. Palestinian delegation members used to attend the meeting of this authority as necessary. Now, the new situation is that the attendance by the delegation members is a permanent one, and not from time to time.

[Mu'addi] Regarding the peace process and the next round of peace talks, has the Palestinian side received an invitation from the U.S. State Department to attend this round?

[Al-Husayni] So far, we learned that there will be a round at the end of this month. However, due to travel, there have been no direct meetings. I think that we will have a direct meeting today, during which we will receive an invitation just like the other parties.

[Mu'addi] Concerning the Gaza-Jericho First plan, will the Palestinian side list this issue on the agenda of the next round?

[Al-Husayni] We have included this point in a declaration of principles paper, and we are waiting for the U.S. and Israeli reactions. In light of this, this issue could be listed on the agenda, or we will discuss other issues.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Faysal, the inhabitants in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were perplexed this week due to reports about resignations and later about rejection of resignations. Do you have any advice or any good news to tell the inhabitants at this time?

[Al-Husayni] You are talking about citizens, the Palestinian citizens on the Palestinian territory, which is now called the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As for these citizens, who are citizens and not inhabitants, I would like to tell them that these days, which were viewed by the news media as difficult days, ultimately served the Palestinian interests in a good way. We now have mechanisms that are better than the ones we had in the past. This does not mean they are new mechanisms. However, the mechanisms that were there from the beginning have been developed. I would like to point out that we wanted to discuss this issue away from the news media. This is why we kept silent. Reports leaked, however, and all sides began to analyze as they liked. In this regard, we were pained by two issues: First, some sides tried to depict the issue as a conflict between hard-liners in the delegation and soft-liners in the PLO leadership. This is absolutely untrue. There was a discussion of the best means and language to be used to achieve the objective set before us by the PLO. The second issue is the attempt to squeeze Egypt's name in this issue, and to hint that the Palestinian delegation adopts a negative stand toward Egypt. There is no such thing. Egypt is our big brother, which has always supported us throughout and before the peace process. Egypt on the one hand and the PLO and Palestinians on the other always maintain good relations. Consequently, all rumors that these differences have anything to do with the Egyptian role are baseless.

[Mu'addi] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation and member of the PLO Steering Committee [as heard], thank you very much.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

Criticism of 'Abd-al-Shafi Reported

TA1208130593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Aug 93 p 7

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Excerpt] Palestinian delegates Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat, have said over the past two days: "We do not have many problems with the

Palestinian leadership. The problem lies with the leadership of the delegation and with some of its members, who evade responsibility and fear to take steps at the critical moments." This was reported yesterday by senior Palestinian sources in the territories and in Tunis.

Whereas at the beginning of the week, the three delegates leveled harsh criticism at the PLO leadership in Tunis, their complaints are now directed at Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation. In closed sessions with the PLO leadership, the three delegates said that a situation in which al-Shafi and other delegates belonging to the Palestinian People's Party, led by Ghassan al-Khatib, boycotted meetings, avoided making any decisions, and refused to participate in any activities that were unpopular among the Palestinian public — such as Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Jerusalem—was inconceivable.

Faysal al-Husayni was quoted yesterday by senior Palestinian sources as telling the Tunis leadership: "Every time we have to make a tough decision, they fold under pressure from the street and disappear."

The delegates complained to the PLO leadership in Tunis that the Palestinian delegation was in a state of "economic strangulation." Al-Husayni said that he preferred to be out of the country, because when he arrives back in the territories local residents shower him with appeals for financial aid. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Publishes Details of Resignation Debate

PM1308105593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Aug 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Publishes Minutes of Meeting Preceding Resignations; Palestinian Crisis Sparks Disagreement With Cairo"]

[Text] Amman, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The internal crisis between the Palestinian leaderships inside and outside [the occupied territories] interacted and expanded yesterday to include external parties and to threaten the PLO's relationship with Egypt. While the leadership's meetings have been continuing in Tunis with a view to mending the rift caused by the resignation threat of the three Palestinian negotiators—but without any tangible results—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has warned the Palestinians not to involve Egypt's name haphazardly in their internal conflicts, threatening to reveal details and secrets of Palestinian officials' role in the side negotiations with the U.S. Administration and Israel.

This development comes after some Palestinian officials announced that Cairo "is putting pressure on the PLO to offer concessions regarding the proposed autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Palestinian statements pointed out that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak handed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during their meeting in Alexandria last week a Palestinian document whose content the Palestinian delegation had rejected in Jerusalem despite President Yasir 'Arafat's personal request to Faysal al-Husayni, general coordinator for the negotiating delegation, to submit it to Christopher.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT publishes a photocopy of the original document that President Mubarak handed to Christopher. It carries handwritten instructions from President 'Arafat to Faysal al-Husayni to hand it to Christopher.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also obtained a copy of the minutes of the heated session held by the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Jerusalem Saturday, 7 August, that is, two days after Christopher received another amended Palestinian document which provoked a disagreement and an argument between the delegation and the PLO leadership. There follows the text of the minutes:

Participants: Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Nabil Qissis, Mamduh al-'Akr, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Faysal al-Husayni, Jabr Faddah, and Su'ad al-'Amiri.

At the beginning of the meeting the participants expressed their protest at the Tunis-based Palestinian leadership's interference in everything and the centralization of decisionmaking in its hands. They also expressed their protest at the "tutelage Cairo is exercising over the PLO leadership."

Sa'ib: I am for submitting individual resignations.

Nabil: I am against Sa'ib's idea, because he wants some resignations to be accepted and others to be rejected, thus Haydar leaves and Sa'ib stays.

Jabr Faddah: I am against resignation. We belong to 'Arafat's leadership. I am talking here on behalf of all Gaza.

Mamduh: I call for a meeting of all leaders inside and outside the territories to discuss matters openly and frankly.

Haydar: We will not participate in the next round so as not to engage in hopeless negotiations.

Su'ad al-'Amiri: I insist on submitting my resignation immediately. I also urge collective resignations, since the Tunis-based leadership is a "corrupt leadership" and we should not continue to work under it. We violated its decisions after ascertaining that "its independent national decisionmaking" is not independent but subservient to the Cairo-Washington axis. They are now lying in wait for us to bring us to trial. I know that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh is currently busy drafting the paper, despite his attempt to give the impression that the paper is imposed on us by Cairo.

Mamduh: We are willing to stand trial if a national trial of the leadership in Tunis is conducted. Because it has abandoned the fixed national principles, violated

national consensus, and lost its legitimacy. Whereas we are the pulse of those inside. Faysal, Hanan, Sa'ib, and Su'ad submitted their resignations to the leadership in Tunis, and 'Arafat's reply was: Bring your written resignations to Tunis.

Faysal al-Husayni interrupts here to tell the participants the story concerning the paper from the beginning:

When I visited Egypt, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Nabil Sha'th submitted to me a paper they had prepared with 'Abd-Rabbuh and the Egyptians. I rejected it immediately. I told them no one can accept or approve it. Then I contacted 'Arafat to complain to him about their concessions. I discovered that 'Arafat was in the picture and had agreed to the wording of the paper. He asked me to submit it to Dennis Ross. As a result of his insistence, I made it conditional that it be signed by him personally. And indeed he signed it and returned it to me.

In Jerusalem you all refused to accept it. I could not find anyone to accept it, so we had to submit a new version to Dennis Ross on geographical jurisdiction—which angered Ross, the Egyptians, and 'Arafat. Mubarak vehemently reproached 'Arafat and told him: Are you fooling me, Yasir. You promised to submit the paper as it is to Ross, but you did not. 'Arafat replied: The promise still stands, but members of the delegation acted autonomously and did not refer to us.

Mubarak added: You have to put an end to the attitude of those boys. Can you not control them? Frankly, I no longer trust your promises, and you must tell me precisely now: Are you working for the approval of the paper, or is there another position?

'Arafat replied: We are agreed, as I promised you. Mubarak told him—Faysal al-Husayni still speaking—so sign the paper in front of me now, and I will consider you responsible for implementing it.

And indeed 'Arafat signed it, writing on it a note, addressed to me, telling me of the need to submit it to Christopher and to discuss the issue of Gaza and Jericho, ignoring the Jerusalem issue. This paper with 'Arafat's handwritten note on it has been with me since 2 August 1983.

Faysal al-Husayni went on: This leadership must be toppled, because it is impotent. And if this leadership put pressure on me, I will publish 'Arafat's signatures and notes. They have actually begun to threaten me now through an absurd statement issued by the al-'Asifah forces from Tunis. They have also begun to activate their henchmen like Sa'id Kan'an and others.

Faysal went on to say: There is Egyptian influence over independent national decisionmaking. It would have been better for 'Arafat if he had sent Qaddumi to Egypt, Abu-Mazin to Syria, and al-Surani to Jordan. But he sent Sha'th and Abu-Mazin to Egypt and 'Abd-Rabbuh to Jordan, hence the outcome we are experiencing today, and he alone should shoulder the responsibility for it...it is the PLO leadership's dilemma.

Faysal al-Husayni went on to say: Sa'ib's prime concern and objective is for the PLO to engage in the direct negotiations in place of us and for Haydar to meet with the Israelis and not to meet the Americans with us. As for Hanan, she is very alarmed at 'Arafat's attitudes. She tried not to go to Tunis because she does not want to see them after their repugnant action. She says that the Tunis-based leadership is not interested in a people, a cause, or sacrifices. They dump the youths and sacrifice them for the sake of their own interests. She also said: They requested me to lie, but I refused. This is something that cannot continue, nor can I.

In Tunis, Sari Nusaybah, member of the advisory committee for the negotiating delegation, said that the PLO was moving toward setting up a new department to coordinate the negotiating delegation's activities inside and outside the occupied territories.

Nusaybah said that current discussions between the PLO leadership and most members of the negotiating delegation are aimed at that, with a view to resolving the crisis which has emerged recently within Palestinian ranks.

He added: "The discussions have revealed that it is necessary to set up a new department and mechanism to exchange information and views between members of the negotiating delegation and the PLO leadership." He stressed that "the disagreement has nothing to do with the content of the Palestinian document handed to Christopher. It is to do with the administrative working mechanism within the delegation."

He said that the discussions which have been taking place since the beginning of the week between 'Ashrawi, al-Husayni, and 'Uraygat on the one hand and the PLO leadership—especially its leader, 'Arafat—on the other are being conducted in "a very relaxed and open atmosphere, and that there is an attempt to tackle the cause of the problems, that is the department and the mechanism." [sentence as published] He added: "God willing, this will be a minor storm."

Al-Surani Denies Dispute Tactical Move by PLO

NC1308120693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has denied that the inter-Palestinian differences are a tactical move by the PLO to force Israel to recognize it as a party to the peace talks.

Al-Surani said in statements to the Cairo-based newspaper AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM in today's issue that what happened affirms that the structure of the PLO is based on democracy and on allowing difference of opinions.

He added that inter-Palestinian differences are nothing new. They started during the Madrid Conference in

October 1991. However, these differences did not cause a split in the Palestinian ranks.

The Palestinian official clarified that what caused some members of the Palestinian delegation to suggest their resignation recently was the American retreat and the fact that the peace talks had moved away from the terms of negotiations represented in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In addition, Israel tried to exclude Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories from the negotiations' agenda.

Al-Surani expressed his belief that if direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians take place things will change radically and the Palestine question will be on the way to a solution.

Sha'th Proclaims Egypt Ally in Peace Negotiations

NC1308085093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, today described the meetings between members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and the PLO leaders as positive and successful. He said that the talks lifted the spirits of the delegates and the Palestinian leaders.

Speaking after his return to Cairo from Tunis, Sha'th said that the meetings involved a discussion of the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region and the Palestinian plans for the coming phase.

The coming phase will be difficult, he said, because it will involve a test of Israeli intentions. Sha'th added: We expect Christopher to state what progress will be made because of the role played by the United States.

Sha'th said that all the Arab delegations to the peace talks have made very positive contributions despite Israel's aggression on south Lebanon and its tragic consequences.

The Palestinian official said that Egypt's role is one of a big brother and an ally. The Egyptian role in the talks, which is one of support, is greatly appreciated because of its ongoing involvement, he added.

Sha'th denied that there is a chink in the solid armor of Egyptian-Palestinian ties. This view is shared by the Palestinian delegation members as well as the Palestinian leaders, he pointed out.

Envoy Lauds Support, Noninterference

NC1208124293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Amman, 12 Aug (MENA)—Palestine Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has lauded Egypt's support for the Palestinian cause and stand in various international organizations. He reiterated that Egypt has never interfered in Palestinian domestic affairs nor has it pressured the organization as claimed by certain news agencies.

In a statement to MENA, the Palestinian ambassador described as baseless the reports claiming that Egypt pressured the Palestinians to accept a particular document. He said: When we coordinate with the fraternal Arab countries we benefit from their advice and experience.

The Palestinian official said he does not believe that any PLO official or any member of the negotiating team has encroached on Egypt's position, noting that the Palestinian leadership is always eager to hold consultations with the brothers in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Journalist Comments on Recent Developments

NC1308142093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with leading journalist Radwan Abu-'Ayyash in Ramallah by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Jundi] First of all we would like to welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-'Ayyash] Thank you very much.

[Al-Jundi] Let us start this dialogue with recent developments in the Palestinian arena and reports about differences of opinion between the Palestinian delegation members and the PLO leadership. We would like your comment on these developments.

[Abu-'Ayyash] First I would like to thank you and the Voice of the Arabs for this telephone call. I would like to affirm that the peace process, as far as the Palestinian people, are concerned is a strategic issue of top priority. The major occupation of the Palestinian people right now is to establish peace on the basis of justice, fairness, and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

The recently reported differences between the delegation members and the PLO's political leadership are no more than technical measures that come up every now and then. I can classify them as coordination, or furthering coordination. There can be differences every now and then between the groups involved in coordination.

With respect to us, the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, we believe that the Palestinian political leadership, the PLO is proceeding toward establishing a just and comprehensive peace in cooperation with the Arab brothers, especially with Cairo, Amman, and Damascus. We affirm in this regard that the Arab countries, particularly Egypt, respect the Palestinian will and confirm that the independent Palestinian decision stems from the higher Palestinian interest, which finds supporters among the Egyptian political leadership. There is full coordination between this political leadership and the PLO.

The atmosphere that has recently prevailed over relations between the delegation members and the political leadership is a healthy phenomenon since there are technical issues and problems that emerge every now and then. The three brothers about whose resignation rumors were circulating went to Tunis to present their reports and hold talks with their political leadership about their recent meetings with Christopher.

[Al-Jundi] In light of the recent developments, U.S. sources have said the next round of talks will be held between 31 August and 13 September.

[Abu-'Ayyash] So far, the date for the next round of talks has not been clearly set. All we know is that it might take place during the last week of this month or the first week of next month. I do not believe that any of the participating delegation members will boycott the continuation of the peace process. I believe that the brothers on the Arab side are very concerned about coordinating fully to at least achieve some progress in the negotiating process and start implementing the agreements in favor of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories and everywhere else, and in the interest of the Arab nation in general.

[Al-Jundi] Do you not believe that the next round of talks will start off on the wrong foot because of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and because some Palestinian delegation members wanted to resign? In other words, there are some developments in the arena that confirm that the next round of talks must accomplish some progress because the process has gone on for too long.

[Abu-'Ayyash] Actually, after 22 months of negotiations, and as I noted that there are obstacles emerging every now and then, yes. However, the issue does not depend on a certain atmosphere. The issue is one of a desire for peace. A desire for peace has been declared by the governments participating in the peace talks.

[Al-Jundi] At least, on the Israeli side, Tel Aviv always announces that there is an intention for peace, but Israeli practices run contrary to these announcements.

[Abu-'Ayyash] I agree with you fully that there are two stories here. The first one is the practical and actual one being implemented on grounds that completely contradict peace, and the other one is being practiced in theory in Washington during the talks. I believe that if things continue as they are now in the negotiations, the negotiators might find themselves in a confusing situation where they will wonder why they are negotiating. There have always been measures supporting the destruction of peace. I believe this question should be put to the Rabin government, which has so far been talking about peace but not doing anything about it. The Rabin government is before a crucial test at this moment. I believe the next round of talks will be one of the crucial rounds in deciding the whole future of the peace process. [passage omitted]

PLO Dissident al-Hasan on Peace Negotiations

PM1208112493 Paris LIBERATION in French 10 Aug 93 pp2,4

[Interview with PLO dissident Hani al-Hasan by Jose Garcon in Tunis; date not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Tunis—Hani al-Hasan is one of the main officials of the PLO and Fatah, the most important of the Palestinian organizations. With a long experience of diplomatic contacts, he now seems to be the leader of those within the PLO and Fatah who oppose the way in which the Palestinian organization's leadership is conducting the peace negotiations with Israel.

[Garcon] How can you explain the conflict that has broken out between the Palestinians of the interior and the PLO leadership?

[Al-Hasan] Although this matter should not be exaggerated, it is true that the main members of the Palestinian delegation have placed their mandate at the PLO's disposal. None of the Palestinian structures has to blindly implement the organization's directives. We have received an American-Israeli proposal which lacks any seriousness because it defined the West Bank and Gaza not as "occupied" territories but as "disputed" territories, in other words it was questioning the very idea of occupation. If the Americans refuse to allow the status of Jerusalem and territorial autonomy to be discussed, what exactly can we discuss?

The fact that we had this kind of proposal 20 months after the start of the preliminary talks is a complete defeat for all those within the PLO who have advocated and defended this way of pursuing the negotiations. And this has obviously strengthened those who are opposed to it, including me. We in the Fatah central committee said before this matter ever arose that the political orientation of the negotiations had to be changed and all the Palestinian groups started to discuss that for the first time. We decided no longer to work on this American document which is impossible to accept as a working basis. We have established a "committee for national dialogue" which I chair. I have had meetings in Damascus with all the Palestinian organizations except Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], but including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], with which there may be ideological disagreements but which is not a terrorist movement and [passage missing in original]. It is following this progress toward unity that the pressures (on Fatah, the PLO, and the delegation from inside [the occupied territories]—LIBERATION editor's note) have worsened... As for the Palestinian delegation, it has not departed from the decisions made by the Fatah central committee.

[Garcon] What precisely do you mean by "reconsidering the political line" followed by the PLO?

[Al-Hasan] We are still convinced of the need to reach a negotiated political solution and a just and comprehensive peace. But that is not what is happening now. We are witnessing the sacrifice of the Palestinian people under the eyes of the United States. We are therefore demanding the participation of five members of the UN Security Council in the peace process because Russia's participation is no longer a guarantee. We are aware of the world balance of forces and have no illusions on the possibility of ensuring that Palestinians and Israelis are treated in the same way. But we must arrive at a relative balance that China and France can guarantee. For us that would also be a kind of moral protection.

[Garcon] What do you dislike about the way in which the PLO leadership is conducting the negotiations?

[Al-Hasan] There is a group that wants to negotiate at any price to arrive at a common platform with the United States. There is another, very broad group which now wants to immediately discuss the definitive solution to the Palestinian problem on the basis of a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in exchange for full peace. That obviously involves Jerusalem. Rabin does not intend to withdraw from more than 40 percent of the occupied territories: This is the goal of his gradual strategy. We want to discuss the essential issues.

[Garcon] What is the goal of the negotiations now taking place in Tunis?

[Al-Hasan] We want to succeed in decentralizing the Palestinian decision-making process and, on that basis, work to change our method of negotiating. It is a battle for Palestinian sovereignty and to provide ourselves with more effective and more democratic institutions.

[Garcon] The PLO does not seem to be in a balance of power which enables it to impose on the negotiations the kind of direction which you want....

[Al-Hasan] It is Rabin who is in the blind alley, not us. The peace process started solely because there was an American-Israeli desire for it. There is now no longer any military threat to Israel. But the huge economic plans vital to develop the region could partly serve to compensate for the crisis in Europe and the United States. The fundamentalist movement is moreover not only exacerbated by the social demands, it is also galvanized by the symbol of Jerusalem and the intifadah can perpetuate an instability which it is difficult for Israel to manage. We are in fact at a historic turning point at which the strong man needs the weak link in the chain! Rabin wants a humiliating peace. It is time for the Palestinians to set a ceiling on their concessions. Anybody who accepts compromise for its own sake is an idiot.

Factions Reject Confederation Before Liberation

JN1208125593 Amman THE STAR in English 12-18 Aug 93 p 1

[By STAR staff writer Ra'id al-'Abid]

[Text] Most Palestinian organizations in Jordan agree that while Jordanian-Palestinian confederation should be the ultimate goal of both peoples, the majority reject the idea before the fulfilment of Palestinian statehood. In fact, most see the recent presentation of the confederation project by the United States and Israel as a "conspiracy" to push the political settlement at the expense of both people.

The official spokesman of Hamas in Jordan, Mr. Muhammad Nazzal, told THE STAR that his movement believes that "unity between Jordanians and Palestinians and the rest of Arab and Muslim peoples, is a necessary and urgent matter and a strategic goal." But he added that recent presentations of the confederation idea aim at "salvaging the political settlement which we have rejected from the outset and which has reached a dead end."

Mr. Nazzal added that the aim of confederation at present is not to achieve unity between the two people, but "to remove the obstacles that stand in the way of arriving at an agreement with the Israeli enemy."

Member of the politburo of the Democratic front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and its representative in Jordan, Mr. Saji Khalil, told THE STAR that the national Palestinian movement is now concerned with achieving Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian occupied areas in 1967 and implementing UN Security Council resolution 242 especially concerning the right of self determination for Palestinians and their right to establish an independent state.

"In the face of Israeli rejections of these demands and the obvious U.S. bias in favor of Israel," Mr. al-Khalil said, "our main concern is to direct all efforts to detail attempts to liquidate our national cause." He added that for these reasons calls for Palestinian-Jordanian-confederation are premature.

Mr. al-Khalil said that the Palestine National Council (PNC) had in 1983 "endorsed the principle of confederation on the basis of Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territories and the establishment of an independent state of Palestine." He said confederation will come as result of "the free choice of the two brotherly nations."

PLO Executive Committee member and member os the politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, told THE STAR that the PNC decision of 1983 to establish future relations between Jordan and Palestine on confederation levels, "must come after Israeli withdrawal and as a result of the free and democratic choice of both peoples."

Mr. Malluh added that current attempts to push confederation into the limelight aim at "distorting the goal" in order to find a way out of the stalemate in the current negotiations. "It aims at representing the struggle as one between Jordanians and Palestinians," he said.

"Priority should now be focused on ensuring Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state," Mr. Malluh said.

The representative of the Palestine People's Party (PPP), formerly the Palestine Communist Party in Jordan, Dr Taysir 'Aruri, said that "it is not realistic now to go into the details of confederation." He told THE STAR that "it is not possible to discuss confederation between an established state and another that is still under foreign occupation."

Mr. 'Aruri said the central issue before Jordanians and Palestinians is to "get rid of Israeli occupation." But he added that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination at this stage is of utmost importance in order "to develop a strong negotiating position in front of the U.S. and Israelis."

Mr. 'Aruri praised the setting up of six joint committees between Jordan and the PLO last month as one form of joint coordination. He added that both the United States and Israel have diferent meanings and intentions regarding confederation.

Recently, a public opinion poll in the Occupied Territories concluded that over 51 percent of the Palestinians oppose confederation with Jordan as a final settlement. About 40 percent approved it. The poll, concluded jointly by a Jerusalem-based Arab media center, Dutch television and CNN was carried out between 27 and 29 July. It covered a sample of 147 East Jerusalem and West Bank Palestinians.

Deportee Spokesman Terms Partial Return Progress

JN1208175993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in southern Lebanon, said Israel's decision to allow 200 of the 400 deportees to return is considered progress, but said all deportees must return.

Concerning the return in groups, he said priority must be given to the sick, who number 80 according to the Marj al-Zuhur camp doctors.

The Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman earlier announced that about 200 deportees could return by mid-September and that the others must wait until next December.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said that the acceptance or rejection of the Israeli offer is left to the deportees themselves. The Movement's representative in Jordan, Muhammad Nazzal, said the Movement will support any decision by the deportees to this effect.

Urges Acceptance of Repatriation

JN1208180293 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the struggler deportees stranded in Marj al-Zuhur, who, God willing, will be repatriated, has affirmed that there are compelling and serious factors affecting the deportees, particularly the issue of sick deportees.

When asked at a news conference today if the deportees will accept the new Zionist offer to allow the repatriation of half the deportees by 17 September, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi indicated that there are compelling circumstances that will influence their decision in this regard. He added: Due to these circumstances, I will attempt to convince the deportees who rejected repatriation in the past to accept repatriation now.

Algeria

'Terrorist' Group Receives Sentencing

LD1208125493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Constantine's special justice council today handed down sentences against an armed group. The sentences range from temporary imprisonment to acquittal. More details from our correspondent in Constantine:

[Correspondent] The special justice council in Constantine today issued the final verdicts againsts the 62-group [as heard], who were accused of being members of an armed terrorist group, supporting acts of terrorism and sabotage, possessing unlicensed weapons, and providing supplies to an armed gang in the Batna mountains. The verdicts issued so far vary between five and seven years' imprisonment, and acquittal. The public prosecutor had asked for 20-year and life sentences. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa: Libya, Bosnia Test Western Credibility

NC1308101993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper noted today that President Husni Mubarak has contacted the leaders of the United States, France, and Britain. This is part of a final attempt to stop the tightening of international sanctions against Libya and to give diplomacy a chance to settle the Libyan-Western conflict. The conflict centers around the implementation of the Security Council resolution on handing over the Libyan suspects in the cases of the American airliner downed over Lockerbie and the French airliner downed over Niger.

The newspaper cites Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on efforts to resolve this crisis before the Security Council meets to pass a resolution to prolong the sanctions on Libya. The council is scheduled to meet the day after tomorrow, Sunday, and is expected to pass this resolution then. He says diplomacy should be given another chance to find a logical and acceptable implementation which is in line with the Security Council resolution, especially since Libya has announced that it condemns terrorism and accepts international legitimacy. Libya also declared its readiness to implement the Security Council resolutions and accepted an international order to confirm the absence of terrorism training camps on its territories.

'Amr Musa affirmed the importance of implementing and respecting the resolutions on international legitimacy in every case. He said that the insistence of some groups in the world to punish certain sides and not others astounds many people.

For example, he mentioned the Western policy toward the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. AL-AHRAM cited the foreign minister as saying that the credibility of Western policy, including American policy, is now being put to the test in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He adds that many now doubt the credibility of the West in their claims to carry out strikes against the Serbian forces if they do not withdraw from the mountains overlooking Sarajevo; especially since the Serbs continue to challenge these threats.

'Amr Musa said that the [word indistinct] now leads to the dangerous point of dealing with the extent to which the West respects its own threats to take a decisive stand toward the Serbian aggression on the Muslims of Bosnia.

The foreign minister warned that the new world order has been dealt a strong blow in Bosnia. No one believes that there is a new world order or that there is one standard for human rights. He pointed out that the ethnic cleansing, occupation, and defiance of the Security Council currently taking place in Bosnia is going unpunished and without any strong reaction.

Paper Claims Mosad Involved in Cairo Blasts

NC1208203993 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Last week, security forces arrested three agents of Israel's Mosad, who planned to explode bombs in various places in Alexandria. Available information confirms that the three culprits have close ties with officials at the Israeli consulate in Alexandria.

The information also shows that well over 30 people have been in contact with the Israeli consulate. Extensive investigations are currently under way concerning two of the consulate employees, and information confirms that they are directly involved in the incidents. It is expected that the employees will be deported within the next few days.

Analysis of the explosive devices, which were discovered and defused in Sidi Bishr, al-Shatibi, and al-Ma'murah, confirms that they are the same type as those used in the explosions in Cairo. Suspicion focuses on the Mosad regarding the Cairo explosions, which occurred in the Wadi al-Nil Cafe, Madinat al-Nasr, and on the Pyramids road. Israeli chemical elements were used in these explosions.

However, the size of the devices planted in Alexandria is smaller than those used in Cairo. They were developed between 1985 and 1990 in Israel. Had the devices been detonated, the blasts would have left hundreds of innocent people dead. However, security forces managed to discover and defuse the devices.

Editorial: Musa Denies Opinion Imposed on PLO

NC1308081493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 13 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] An AL-AHRAM editorial affirms today [13 August] that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has denied that Egypt is trying to impose its opinion on the PLO. He said reports on this subject are baseless. He said Egypt has not imposed any position on the Palestinians and will never do so. It is only trying to help find a solution. The foreign minister also clarified that Egyptian-Palestinian working relations are at their best and that anyone claiming otherwise is only trying to damage current relations.

The newspaper says that Palestinian officials have denied that Egypt submitted any ideas or working papers on their behalf. The paper says that President Husni Mubarak has declared many times that Egypt does not impose any opinion on the Palestinians or speak on their behalf. The Palestine question is theirs and they make the decisions on that issue.

The paper affirms that Egypt, which has fought for justice for Palestine, is trying to achieve an honorable settlement on the Palestine question. The paper calls on the Palestinian brothers to unite their ranks and to stay away from vituperations that harm them more than they help.

Mubarak Sends Message to Ethiopian Leader on Somalia

NC1208191193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] In his capacity as the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today sent a message to the Ethiopian president on the situation in Somalia. The president said that this situation is bound to frustrate the efforts that are being made to restore security and stability there.

The message was conveyed by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during a telephone conversation with his Ethiopian counterpart today.

President Mubarak's message is part of the framework of continuing consultations between the two countries to achieve national reconciliation among the various factions in Somalia.

South African Groups Invited to Talks

NC1308090593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry is contacting South Africa's liberation movements to try to unite their positions and resolve their differences in preparation for future developments.

Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, assistant foreign minister for African Affairs, said that Egypt sent invitations today to the leaders of the African National Congress, the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, and the Inkatha Freedom Party to come to Cairo next month for consultations on developments in South Africa. This is designed to coordinate the stances of nationalist black forces in South Africa, to organize monthly meetings among their representatives in preparation for the elections scheduled for April 1994, and to encourage the current multiparty negotiations.

The assistant foreign minister added: Egypt urges these nationalist forces to renounce violence and adopt positive stands for the sake of attaining a peace settlement as soon as possible and before the elections so that a real, nonracist democratic system can be established.

Ambassador Rif'at remarked that Egypt is making these efforts in its capacity as current OAU chairman.

Interior Ministry: Report on Slain Officer Inaccurate

NC1208195493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] An Interior Ministry security source has disputed the accuracy of a report broadcast two days ago by the BBC about gunmen killing a police officer in front of his house in Aswan. The official described as inaccurate the report's claim that the Egyptian authorities blamed Muslim extremists for the attack. The source emphasized that the fact is that unknown assailants opened fire on a police officer in front of his house in Aswan. He was subsequently martyred as a result of the injuries he received.

The BBC formerly broadcast a fabricated report about an attack on an Armed Forces post in al-Wadi al-Jadid.

The Interior Ministry source declared that the ministry does not conceal the facts from the public because it has faith in the people's positive and effective role in fighting terrorism.

The source continued: Altering facts in such circumstances harms the homeland's causes and does not serve national interests.

The Interior Ministry urged foreign radios and news agencies and their correspondents in Egypt to ascertain the accuracy of their reports before publishing or broadcasting them, lest they compromise their own credibility.

Two al-Shawqiyun Members Arrested in Cairo

NC1208203493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—Security forces today arrested two terrorists accused of armed robbery against a jewelry store in Cairo's al-Matariyah area in May. One citizen was martyred by shots fired indiscriminately by the terrorists as they escaped with six kg of gold ornaments.

An Interior Ministry official said that the two terrorists arrested today belong to the extremist al-Shawqiyun group. He identified them as Rif'at 'Abdallah 'Umar, 26, a house painter who lives in Kafr al-Shurafa' in Madinat al-Salam; and Muhammad Ibrahim 'Uthman, a house painter who lives in Dirwah in Al-Minya Governorate's Mallawi district. The first was arrested once before in connection with terrorist activity. [passage omitted]

Libya

Girl Reportedly Dies After UN Denial of Air Transport

LD1208182193 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Aug (JANA)—The UN Security Council [UNSC] refused to grant permission for the transfer by air ambulance of sick people who could not be treated locally. Sources from the People's Committee for Health and Social Security reported that rejection of the request contravened the UNSC's unjust Resolution 748 which allowed exceptions in humanitarian and extraordinary cases.

The sources said that the air ambulance department had, over a month before, submitted a permission request for certain cases through the Secretariat of the People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation. It finally received a rejection of its requests to transfer those cases by the Libyan Arab air ambulance service. Rejection of the request led to the worsening of some cases, while others were transferred by land to Tunisia or by sea to Malta, although their health conditions did not permit that.

The sources reported that the rejection led to the death of Safa' 'Abd-al-Rasul, a girl of seven, and of several other people, who could not be treated locally and whose lives could have been saved abroad. It also meant that several others were hospitalized without being able to receive appropriate treatment locally and with no chance of being transferred by air to specialized clinics abroad. The sources gave a list of the cases of people who required treatment abroad but who were refused permission by the UNSC. It included people from the Great Jamahiriyah, Egypt, and Palestine.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives George Bush at Palace 12 Aug

LD1208213893 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received at royal palace in Skhirat this afternoon former U.S. President George Bush. After having stayed a while in the Gulf club, his majesty and his guest had tete-a-tete talks. Afterward, his majesty gave a family dinner banquet in Mr. and Mrs. Bush's honor.

Parties Urge UN To Lift Sanctions Against Iraq

LD1208145093 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 12 (MAP)—Four Moroccan political parties namely the Istiqlal, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Party for Progress and Socialism and the Organization for a Democratic and Popular Action asked the United Nations to lift the economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

In a statement circulated at the end of a joint meeting on the situation in the Arab Gulf, the four parties urged the international opinion to support the Iraqi people who is denied most basic rights because of the embargo.

The maintaining of the embargo on Iraq is a 'blatant violation' to the international legality, particularly after the clear commitment of Iraq to respect UN Resolutions 687 and 715, the parties said before requesting the international community to work for respecting Iraq's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Cabinet Examines Decentralization, Efficiency Measures

LD1208145393 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 12 (MAP)—The Moroccan cabinet convened here Wednesday [11 August] under the chairmanship of Premier Mohamed Karim Lambrani started examining means of implementing the contents of the letter King Hassan II recently addressed to the prime minister.

In this letter, the sovereign asked the government to submit state-owned enterprises to an audit and to explore ways of ensuring to these enterprises a better management at the lowest cost.

The cabinet afterwards looked into draft texts meant to promote decentralization and providing for the setting up of a standing commission that will have to elaborate and follow up a national policy on administrative decentralization.

The commission is chaired by the prime minister and is made up of several ministers including those of the interior and information, of finance, of administrative affairs, of economic affairs and others.

The cabinet also examined a draft decree setting up and organizing the National School of Public Administration that will organize training courses to the benefit of senior civil servants, higher studies degree holders, engineers and architects. The staff will be trained to assume responsibilities within the public administration in matters of human and financial resources management.

Other texts related to the statute of some civil servants of the Ministry of National Education and to the prerogatives and organization of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investments were also examined.

Sudan

Assembly Condemns U.S. Congress Statement on Terrorism

EA1208190893 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly [TNA] issued a statement condemning the U.S. Congress' Subcommittee on African Affairs. The statement stated that the U.S. Congress statement is to intimidate the Sudan and its people at a time that they really support their Islamic orientation trends.

The TNA statement said that the Sudanese people would not consider these allegations and it would instead work to achieve peace, stability, and development. It further disclosed that [words indistinct] (?support) to the rebels with arms and funds would only work to further the war.

The rebel factions, the statement said, are not being supported by the public. It pointed out that the Congress members who made the statement were in [words indistinct] supporting the rebels with all their (?atrocities) being committed against the innocent civilian population in the Sudan. Such institutions should not be engaged in making plots.

It is worth noting that the U.S. Congress Subcommittee on African Affairs issued the statement on the first of this month, urging Sudan to be enlisted as a terrorist country, creation of safe havens and an imposition of arms embargo against the Sudanese Government.

The TNA statement described the U.S. Congress statement as interference into the domestic affairs of the Sudan.

Government, Rebel Delegations To Resume Talks 22 Aug

EA1208164393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Mr. Ahmad al-Radi Jabir, chairman of the Peace Committee at the transitional National Assembly, has stated that the government representatives on the committee of 20 which resulted from the Fashoda talks between the government delegation and united faction [Sudanese People's Liberation Army—united] of the rebel movement have been appointed to resume negotiations between the two sides.

He said an agreement has been concluded to convene the next round of talks in Fashoda on 22 August to sign an agreement on the delivery of relief and the protection of the development schemes and migrants.

Al-Radi described the results of the talks which resulted from the Fashoda meeting on 24 August as being constructive.

Government Forces Said Closing In on Rebel Positions

AB1308090693 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] It is becoming abundantly clear that the Khartoum government in Sudan is pursuing an all-out offensive against the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels in the south of the country. There were reports last week of thousands of refugees fleeing across the border into Uganda and it seems government troops have been closing [in] on the strategic town of Kaia in the far south. Kaia is held by John Garang's faction of the SPLA. Our correspondent, Sulayman Salim, has been there today. He is now back in Nairobi and on the line Jeremy Skitter asked him what he had seen at Kaia.

[Begin recording] [Salim] The town itself is completely abandoned. There is no civilian there. All civilians have left, but the town now is occupied by the SPLA soldiers. They are there.

[Skitter] How many SPLA soldiers occupy Kaia?

[Salim] They are plenty. We couldn't really discern the numbers but they are occupying Kaia itself. They are there and also around Kaia. There are several SPLA camps around the town itself and these camps have been bombed by the Khartoum Air Force.

[Skitter] Does it look as though the SPLA are digging in to stop the Khartoum government taking Kaia?

[Salim] Yes, we have talked to the commanders there and they have been saying that they are determined that they shall not let the government forces enter the town, but what is happening at the moment is another town very close by of Morobo the commander in Kaia had confirmed that that was taken by the Khartoum forces about two, three days ago. [sentence as heard]

[Skitter] So, how close are the Sudanese Government troops to Kaia?

[Salim] They are about 16 km to the north of Kaia.

[Skitter] So, what is the mood like among the SPLA in Kaia?

[Salim] Well, it is subdued as you can imagine. I mean, they are waiting. There is a sense of anticipation. There is a sense of readiness, and although the commander wouldn't tell us the state of his troops except saying that they are in high morale, I believe they are in a state of preparedness.

[Skitter] Now, obviously, Kaia is now deserted and the inhabitants of Kaia fled into refugee camps in Uganda.

Now, when you went to these refugee camps, what sort of condition were the refugees in?

[Salim] Not bad at all really, and this was confirmed by an officer from UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] who accompanied us to the camps. They look healthy; they are well-fed, but of course, they are missing their parents—some of them—because there are also children there. Although families also have moved in. [sentence as heard] The total is around 25,000.

[Skitter] Now, we have also heard reports that a lot of refugees were fleeing to the Garang's stronghold of Kajo Kaji. Can you confirm this?

[Salim] Yes, we can confirm that. I have talked to the bishop of Kaia and, in fact, he said that some of the southern Sudanese are moving northward and that is not inside Uganda. Some of them are also moving northeastward to Kajo Kaji and also some are moving into Zaire. In fact, we have confirmed it that yesterday [11 August], only yesterday, I think about 200 families had moved into Zaire. [end recording]

SPLA Relief Wing Urges Safe Havens Set Up in South

EA1208164793 Paris AFP in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Nairobi, 12 Aug (AFP)—The relief wing of rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Thursday [12 August] urged the international community to establish safe havens to care for tens of thousands of displaced people in war-battered southern Sudan.

The Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA) said in a statement released here that the world should "come to the rescue of the people of southern Sudan by immediately establishing safe havens or demilitarised zones".

"Never before has the human plight in southern Sudan and Nuba mountains been so alarming," the statement signed by SRRA director Justin Arop added.

The association said an offensive by Sudanese government troops against the rebels was aimed at the "physical elimination" of the people of southern Sudan and of the Nuba mountains.

Government troops had singled out for attack the SPLA-held garrison town of Kaya, sending some 75,000 women and children fleeing into the bush without food or medicine, SRRA alleged.

SRRA said an estimated 30,000 refugees had entered neighbouring Uganda and tens of thousands of others were trekking towards Maridi in the Western Equatoria province since the offensive began two weeks ago.

The SPLA-controlled towns of Kajo-kaji and Kansuk had come under heavy air attack, SRRA added.

Government troops on Monday captured the town of Morobo from the SPLA, relief officials in the Ugandan capital, Kampala said.

The rebels have been fighting the Sudanese government since 1993 to free the mainly Christian and animist south from domination by the Moslem, Arabised north.

Foreign Minister Discusses Relief With EC Delegation

EA1208194793 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug (SUNA)—Bishop Gabriel Rorech, state minister for foreign affairs, today met in his office an EC delegation led by the Greek ambassador to the Sudan, whose country currently leads the EC. The delegation included the British and German ambassadors and the representative of the EC in Khartoum. The meeting discussed the question of delivering relief to the affected areas in the south, the role of the international organizations in the provision of relief, and their freedom of movement in the south.

UN Envoy, Delegation Depart After 6-Day Visit

EA1208201193 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug (SUNA)—Special envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan Vieri Traxler and the accompanying delegation left here yesterday following a six day visit.

Acting director of the Political Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Uthman Nafi stressed in a statement to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily newspaper of today that the UN envoy had hailed the results of his visit, saying that it was [word indistinct] successful.

He declared that the joint report between the United Nations and Sudan Government issued at the end of the UN envoy's visit reflects the positive results of implementing the agreements which were signed last December between the government, the United Nations and the voluntary organizations.

He also said that the joint report has praised the flow of relief to the south and affirmed the necessity of using rivers, corridors, railways, and airways to facilitate the arrival of the UN missions to the south.

Nafi explained that many measures were agreed upon to raise the efficiency of relief through lowering expenditure and reducing the dependence on airlifting operation and through increasing river and railway transport maintenance and provision of spare parts, reaching agreement on timetables for requesting permissions for civil flights, river voyages and railway trips to the south.

He said that the committee was agreed upon to follow up the voluntary work.

Kuwait

Communications Minister, Iranian Delegation View Ties

LD1108140093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0923 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 Aug (KUNA)—Minister of Communications and State Minister for Housing Affairs Habib Jawar Hayat met this morning at his office with the Deputy Minister of Roads and Communications and Head of Aviation Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nurian 'Ali Mohammad, and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country.

The purpose of the Iranian delegation's visit is to hold official talks to amend the air transport agreement concluded between Kuwait and Iran and to discuss a number of issues regarding cooperation between the two friendly countries in the field of civil aviation and transport, in addition to other issues. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreements Reached

LD1308081993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 13 Aug (KUNA)—Kuwait and Iran have agreed bilateral arrangements permitting an increase in the number of air flights between the two countries and the strengthening of security cooperation between them in the domain of civil aviation.

A Civil Aviation Board commmunique received by KUNA says that this agreement was reached after talks that ended here yesterday between civil aviation authorities of the two countries. [passage omitted] The communique further says that the two countries reached agreement to increase the number of air flights between them, and also to allow national airline companies to operate between Kuwait and a number of Iranian cities, including Shiraz, Isfahan, and Mashad, in addition to Tehran and Abadan. This will provide travellers direct flights without the need for transfers or change of means of transport.

The communique also says that it was agreed to introduce a provision concerning security cooperation between the two sides in the field of civil aviation in accordance with the recommendations of the international civil aviation organization [as heard].

Air transport movement between Kuwait and Iran recently witnessed a considerable rise in the number of passengers and the volume of air cargo.

National Assembly Debates, Approves Military Budget

PM1208100093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 93 p 5

[Report by Nasir al-Mutayri: "After Sharp Debate and Accusations of Excesses, National Assembly Approves Military Defense Budget"]

[Text] Kuwait—At the end of a session which witnessed a sharp debate among the deputies over the [armament] budget's approval and the reports about excesses and commissions made on arms deals concluded by the Kuwaiti establishments concerned, the Kuwaiti National Assembly yesterday agreed to consolidate the Army's and the National Guard's budget. Deputy Mashari al-'Usaymi, an opposition deputy, began the debate, accusing former Kuwaiti Army and National Guard leaders of getting rich at the expense of the defense budget and through encroachment on armament funds.

Al-'Usaymi said that, if previous defense budgets used to be handled secretly, this secrecy has lost its benefit now, because secrecy is linked to trust, which is nonexistent. He urged the parliament to follow up the encroachments on the military defense budget.

Deputy al-'Usaymi demanded that thee Kuwaiti defense minister provide clear details of payments from the military reinforcement budget, otherwise the assembly must not approve this budget.

As for Deputy Ahmad al-Khatib, he said that discussing armament issues now is a "waste of time" unless a clear defense strategy is drawn up. He pointed out that Kuwait's previous military policies were "foolish." This was proved on 2 August 1990, on the morning of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Deputy al-Khatib said that approving the defense reinforcement budget before a well-contrived military strategy is drawn up would be "a betrayal of trust."

Deputy Tallal al-'Iyar emphasized his appreciation of the Kuwaiti military establishment and the defense role it played and the great sacrifices it made during the invasion period and the liberation war. He urged the National Assembly not to deny the military establishment support and to refrain from one-upmanship in this connection. Al-'Iyar said: We should build the Kuwaiti military establishment by trusting its men and not casting doubt on their honesty, in order to provide protection for Kuwait against foreign threats. He pointed out that the Western states which concluded defense agreements with Kuwait did not come to defend Kuwait, but, rather, to help defend it. Thus the Army should be consolidated and supported by all possible means. He demanded that the military defense budget should not be discussed publicly.

Deputy Muhammad Dayfallah Sharar reemphasized that Kuwait does not need all the arms deals being concluded at present. Kuwaiti ground forces, he said, cannot absorb this huge quantity of arms. He pointed out that personal interests are behind the conclusion of these deals and the collection of commissions by some Kuwaiti Army leaders.

Deputy Sharar called for a military defense fortification line to be set up on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and equipped with all defense capabilities.

As for Deputy Mubarak al-Duwaylah, who is leading the campaign to follow up and expose armament budget excesses, he said that he had agreed with the heir apparent, the prime minister, to postpone any comment on these excesses. Al-Duwaylah affirmed the existence of real excesses involving hundreds of millions of dinars. He pointed out that Kuwait has spent 6.8 billion dinars on armaments since 1971.

Deputy 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Adasani said that the Defense Ministry must pursue the policy of replacing non-Kuwaitis with Kuwaitis in the Kuwaiti Army, pointing out that the "al-bidun" [those without nationality or who are stateless] in Kuwait represent 27 percent of the Army personnel.

At the end of the session a ballot was cast on the budget, and it was approved by a majority.

Information Minister on Iraq, Media, Role of Assembly

PM1208131893 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 13 Aug 93 pp 28-29

[Interview with Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by Hafiz Mahfuz in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Mahfuz] Assuming the present Iraqi regime implements all the international resolutions, can Kuwait restore relations with it?

[Al-Sabah] No way will relations be restored with the present Iraqi regime, even if it implements all the international resolutions. Because it is the cause of the catastrophe which befell Kuwait and from whose results and effects we are still suffering. Dealings with that regime are rejected at both the people's level and official level. [passage omitted]

[Mahfuz] What about the popular Kuwaiti international newspaper which you intend to publish? Will it be published in Kuwait and abroad in Arabic and in a foreign language? And what will its aim be?

[Al-Sabah] That project is still under consideration. This newspaper will be popular in nature and far from government influence. It will be financed through public subscription to be offered to citizens. When all orientations concerning this idea have been completed, the final formula of this project will emerge. As for the language in which it will be published, it is Arabic as a first step. Then the newspaper's board of directors will be left to decide on publishing it in other languages.

[Mahfuz] Is there any plan to allow the publication of new Kuwaiti newspapers without government subsidy?

[Al-Sabah] That issue, too, is under consideration. There is a plan in this connection which is currently being studied by the National Assembly. In my view, Kuwait cannot sustain any more press publications at present. [passage omitted]

[Mahfuz] How would you assess political action in Kuwait since the establishment of the National AsseZbly? What is your opinion of parliamentary concerns that a crisis could erupt between the Assembly and the government?

[Al-Sabah] The political situation in Kuwait is normal by virtue of the existing system and the adoption of the Constitution. Cooperation exists between the legislative and executive authorities. And we hope that the spirit of cooperation will continue at all levels in order to serve Kuwait's interests. We of the executive authority are moving in this direction, and I see no justification for any concern over press reports that there are disagreements which could lead to a crisis between the Assembly and the government.

[Mahfuz] Some deputies accuse the government of negligence. What is your opinion?

[Al-Sabah] The government plays its role within the executive organ, and the Assembly must struggle within its powers and role. The government works in the various spheres and assesses plans. There are numerous matters which concern the Assembly and which require a decision from it as a legislative authority. We do not work in isolation from the Assembly but in cooperation with it. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Tunisian Foreign Minister Meets Fahd, Concludes Visit

Delivers Ben Ali's Message

LD1108203593 Riyadh SPA in English 1952 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Jeddah, Aug 11, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received today a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The message was delivered to the Saudi monarch by visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya during their meeting here today. The audience was attended by King Fahd's special adviser Ibrahim al-'Anqari, the minister of state and cabinet member Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud and the Tunisian ambassador to the Kingdom Qasem Boucenaina.

Departs Jeddah 11 Aug

LD1208144493 Riyadh SPA in English 1229 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Jeddah, Aug 12, SPA—The Tunisian minister of state for foreign affairs, Habib Ben Yahya ended a two-day visit to the Kingdom and left for home on Wednesday night [11 August].

During the visit Ben Yahya delivered a message to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia.

He was seen off at the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, the minister of state and senior officials.

Yemen

Interior Minister Interviewed on Security, Arms Issues

PM1208135693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Aug 93 p7

[Interview with Interior Minister Colonel Yahya al-Mutawakkil by Faysal Makram in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Makram] It has been claimed that there are centers of power in Yemen to which the Interior Ministry cannot apply the law, that the survival of the interior minister in his post depends on his relations with these centers of power, and that that is why there has been no law and order in the transitional phase of unity.

[Al-Mutawakkil] I wish to separate the issue of the political forces which disobey the law and the conditions at the Interior Ministry in the transitional phase. The weakness, negligence, or incomplete discharge of duties which characterized all government departments during the transitional period were also evident at the Interior Ministry. As regards the centers of power, I have not, to this moment, felt any pressure or attempt by any force to break the law.

I believe that everyone will cooperate so long as the aim is to impose the rule of law and order. We will not give in to any power that tries to impose its hegemony at the expense of the law. [passage omitted]

[Makram] What is the Interior Ministry's position on the pending cases or the postponed cases dating back to the transitional period such as the case of those accused in connection with last December's riots, the case of Tariq al-Fadli who is accused of planning political assassinations, the case of former Deputy Sultan al-Sami'i who is accused of killing three soldiers, and the case of the attacks on oil company experts? Also, what is the latest on the al-Jihad members who fled from al-Mansurah prison and who are accused of carrying out the Aden explosions?

[Al-Mutawakkil] These cases are no longer in the hands of the Interior Ministry. They have been referred to justice, with the exception of the case of the six people who recently fled from al-Mansurah prison in Aden. That was a regrettable incident because those who escaped from prison are the most dangerous members of the gang, and they were the ones who carried out the Aden explosions at the end of last year. They managed to escape with the help of a prison guard who succumbed to financial temptations or because of religious political influence because they belong to the al-Jihad organization.

The latest on that case is that the security organs have obtained information confirming that they are in al-Jawf Governorate, having left Ma'rib aided by some tribal shaykhs who allowed them to stay for one night according to Yemeni tribal tradition but did not take them in. The fugitives will soon be caught.

I wish to emphasize that we are not against al-Jihad or any other political organization operating in accordance with the law in a democratic country but we are against illegal activity. [passage omitted]

[Makram] After more than one attack on experts and interests of oil companies operating in Yemeni, and bearing in mind that these companies have threatened to withdraw from their positions, do you have a plan for the protection of these companies, and what guarantees have you given them?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The security plan which we have begun to implement provides protection for everyone, Yemenis and foreigners. We are preparing a plan in cooperation with the Defense Ministry for the protection of the employees, interests, and positions of the oil companies. We will begin to implement it in the near future. It should be noted that such incidents have now completely stopped.

[Makram] How will you tackle the arms-carrying phenomenon and the heavy guards that accompany political and social figures, and how will you tackle the widespread arms markets in Yemen?

[Al-Mutawakkil] There is a law which permits every citizen to possess weapons. We are about to introduce controls for carrying arms in towns and for the movement of armed personnel accompanying political and other figures, to make that official and limited. [passage omitted]

As regards the arms markets, they are widespread because it is legally permissible to carry arms. All we can do is organize these markets and make them obtain legal sale and purchase permits. We prepared a bill two days ago. We will submit it to the cabinet and seek parliament's approval.

[Makram] There have been some reports of the existence in some Yemeni governorates of training camps for certain Islamic movements of some Arab countries. How true are these reports?

[Al-Mutawakkil] These reports are unfounded and tendentious. We do not support and will not allow such camps. As far as the Yemeni people are concerned, they do not need camps. Everyone carries arms and is trained in their use. Such reports emerged as a result of the political conflicts witnessed by the Arab world recently.

[Makram] It has recently been reported that there has been some collective emigration of Yemeni Jews to

Israel and that the latest batch was a group of 268 Jews who arrived in Tel Aviv a few weeks ago. What is the truth about that, and what is your position on such emigration, particularly as Yemen has clearly supported the Palestinian cause?

[Al-Mutawakkil] On my first day at the Interior Ministry I learned that 12 Jews had left over the past weeks, just like any other Yemeni citizen who leaves to go on vacation, for medical treatment, or to visit relatives. So long as the Jew is a Yemeni citizen we cannot prevent him from obtaining a passport, but there are intermediaries belonging to Jewish and Zionist organizations who came to Yemen, directly from European states and the United States, exploited the democratic atmosphere in the country, and organized such emigration over a whole year, offering financial enticements to those who went along.

We at the Interior Ministry have informed the Foreign Ministry that the Yemeni embassies abroad should be instructed not to grant entry visas to Jewish intermediaries whose activities are suspect, and we instructed the airports and passport departments not to give any Yemeni Jew a passport through intermediaries.

That is all we can do because we cannot deny a Yemeni citizen, Jewish or Muslim, any of his rights. Obtaining a passport and leaving the country are constitutional rights which cannot be denied except in accordance with the law and the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Saddam Grants Education Personnel Transportation Stipend

JN1208150193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz, valuing his excellency's noble directive to grant teachers, principals, and their assistants a transportation allowance. [passage omitted]

'Mujahidin' Claim Destruction of Dam in Basra Province

LD1208171193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Iraqi mujahidin, in an operation in the southern marshlands of the 3country, have destroyed a dam barring the flow of water to the marshlands. An Iraqi opposition source today said: In the operations which were carried out, the mujahidin of the Islamic revolution in Iraq fully destroyed the dam, north of the town of al-Madinah, in Basra Province. They also caused damages and casualties to Iraq's Third Army based in the region.

Prime Minister Receives Sudanese Justice Delegation

JN1208122993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Revolution Command Council member and prime minister, has received Sudan's Justice Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah Shiddu and his delegation. The prime minister told them how much the Iraqi Government and people appreciate Sudan's support for Iraq as it tackles imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic conspiracies. The pressure Sudan is coming under from those circles and their agents, al-Zubaydi added, is a result of Khartoum adopting a principled stand.

The Sudanese minister emphasized that his government and people stand by Iraq's leadership and people as they face the 30-state aggression, enemy plots, and the iniquitous embargo. The aggression and iniquity Iraq has been experiencing was not a happenstance. Led by such an outstanding man as Saddam Husayn, he stressed, Iraq was being targeted as a symbol of Arab steadfastness and self-esteem.

The meeting addressed cooperation between the two brotherly countries. The meeting was attended by Iraq's Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki and the Council of Ministers chief secretary.

Sudanese Minister on World Bank Decision

JN1308140193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—Sudanese Justice Minister 'Abd-al-'aziz 'Abdallah Shiddu has said that the Sudanese people will remain an indivisible part of the Iraqi people, and that his country is standing in the same trench with Iraq in confronting the evil enemies.

In statements to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH issued here today, the Sudanese minister added that the Iraqi people, led by President Saddam Husayn, will not lose any of their rights, and will always remain a symbol of the Arab nation's might and dignity. He explained that the embargo imposed on Iraq is also an embargo on Sudan and the entire nation, and that lifting the embargo will be in the Arab nation's interest. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese minister said the conspiracies against Sudan are part of the imperialist and Zionist schemes against the Arab nation. These conspiracies targeted Iraq during the 30-state aggression, he noted.

Shiddu said: The World Bank's decision to suspend Sudan's membership is a link in the series of conspiracies against his country. These conspiracies aim to pressure Sudan into relinquishing its ideology, principles, and policy, including Sudan's support for the Iraqi rights. He stressed that no power can prevent Sudan from continuing its policy and its earnest support for justice. Sudan will not yield to the pressures against it, he added. [passage omitted]

Airspace 'Violations' By U.S. Protested to UN

JN1308122093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] New York, 13 Aug (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations against the continued violation of Iraqi airspace by the U.S. aircraft of aggression aimed at surveillance and provocation.

A protest memorandum to the UN secretary general said the U.S. aircraft violated Iraqi airspace 3-7 August, carrying out 493 sorties over various Iraqi areas. Iraq's permanent UN representative demanded that the memorandum be distributed as a Security Council document.

Allied 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN1208121893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti rulers' continuing provision of base facilities to American, British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace. A message sent yesterday by Iraq's permanent League delegate to the League's secretary general also noted the grave threat this poses to Iraq's security and sovereignty. It noted that on 7 and 8 August, 1993, the aircraft mounted 87 sorties.

Attached to the message was a catalogue detailing the violations, which Iraq's delegate asked that it be circulated among the League members.

Shahal: Agreement With Syria 'Closer Than Ever'

TA1308110293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 93 p A1

[Report by Yosi Bar-Moha]

[Text] "The U.S. Administration has been using all its strength to bring about a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin," Minister Moshe Shahal stated in an interview with HA'ARETZ this week in which he emphasized that a peace agreement with Syria "is now closer than ever."

Shahal ruled out the possibility of a referendum being held before a peace agreement is signed with Syria and the entire Golan Heights are ceded. "Rabin will call an election immediately after meeting al-Asad and signing a document of principles. Only after such a meeting has taken place we will call for elections in which the public will be called upon to decide either for peace or war."

According to Minister Shahal, a meeting between Rabin and al-Asad will ultimately lead to giving away the entire Golan Heights and to the evacuation of all the settlements and their inhabitants. However, any action or peace agreement will be implemented only after Rabin called an election.

"A meeting between Rabin and al-Asad will raise the prime minister's popularity, as did the meeting between Begin and al- Sadat, even if Rabin presents the electorate with a peace plan that entails giving away the Golan Heights. The majority of Israelis want peace with Syria, and ceding the entire Golan Heights will be inevitable," the minister said. He emphasized that upon the evacuation of the Golan Heights "a U.S. peace force will enter the area overlooking the State of Israel and deploy on a small section of the Golan Heights."

Shahal, who is close to Rabin, stressed that the prime minister would run for another term "because he is the best suited candidate Labor has today. He is the man who will lead to peace with Syria and the man who will also lead the party in the next elections."

According to Shahal, the negotiations on the establishment of autonomy in the territories will continue in conjunction with the signing of the agreement with the Syrians. "We do not rule out the possibility of attaining a separate peace agreement with Syria before the negotiations with the Palestinians are over. In my mind's eye, I see Israeli citizens visiting Damascus, Aleppo, and the Persian Gulf states and vice versa," he asserted.

Peres on Recent Palestinian Moves, Syrian Talks

TA1308063793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0403 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Tzvi Lidar—live]

[Text] [Lidar] Well, now the PLO appears to be participating directly in the negotiations, at least according to the statements made by the Palestinian delegates. What is Israel's position on this?

[Peres] The PLO is not participating directly in the negotiations. We are negotiating with a Palestinian delegation. The delegation's relationship with Tunis is its own affair. The whole thing is a bit of a gimmick. It is a PLO attempt to extricate itself from a crisis. It makes no difference to us, the delegates are still the same people, and the procedure remains unchanged. We are also aware of the fact that the delegates always consulted with whoever they wanted to.

[Lidar] Yes, but now they have officially declared this fact. Faysal al-Husayni....

[Peres, interrupting] What do you mean by officially? Are official declarations made in a different language? Does the paper have a different color or the words a different content? What do you mean by officially? Is the PLO a state? This has no real meaning. They are merely improving or changing their internal relationship. The question of whether this is official or not is completely out of place.

[Lidar] Okay, let us drop the matter of whether this move is official or not and move on to discuss whether it has any practical significance. Faysal al-Husayni said in Amman that the delegation and the PLO are one and the same and declared that the delegation represents the PLO. Do you not have any problem continuing the negotiations with him?

[Peres] I do not know what he announced. As far as I am concerned, the fact that someone has given al-Husayni another title does not change his status. After all, we are talking about an organization which is not a state. This is not an official body, and I do not see any great change here. They have internal problems with regard to the handling of the negotiations. I propose we let them take care of their own business. I do not think that we have to examine the inner workings of every organization with a magnifying glass. The Palestinian positions will not be altered as a result of this internal change, and neither will the state of the negotiations, nor Israel's desire for peace. If they want to show up with a different arrangement, then they are welcome to do that.

[Lidar] Welcome to do that you say, but....

[Peres, interrupting] Welcome to do that as far as they are concerned. Perhaps it will help the Palestinians resolve their problems, but this does not mean that this is acceptable to Israel.

[Lidar] That is clear. Israel always posited that the intention was to negotiate with the PLO in the territories and to drive a wedge between the territories and the PLO in Tunis. Today, however, it is apparent that this aim, at least, was not achieved.

[Peres] I do not know. Look, in the territories it is against the law to be a PLO member. In other words, anyone who belongs to the PLO and engages in terrorism will have to pay a legal price. One must always distinguish between words and reality. In the realm of words, one can say anything; however, in reality, the people negotiating with us also live in the territories. They are not just negotiators, and anyone living in the territories is forbidden to participate in terrorist activity. This fact has not changed. As for political opinions, well, there are also Knesset members who support the establishment of a Palestinian state. We cannot prevent people from holding their opinions. What we can prevent is any activities which harm national security.

[Lidar] With your permission, let us move on to discuss the Syrian track. Police Minister Shahal said that peace with Syria is closer than ever. Do you share his assessment? In Washington peace is seen as a bit farther away.

[Peres] I cannot really measure this in time. First of all, I am very pleased with the following things: First of all, when Secretary of State Christopher and the U.S. peace team arrived in the region they were warmly received. This, despite the criticism that was leveled against the U.S. team by Syrian President al-Asad yesterday, which I found a bit strange. The U.S. officials found all the parties eager to continue the negotiations and even to hold more intensive talks with greater U.S. involvement.

Now, in the procedural sense, as far as we are concerned, Israel does not want any halt in the actual negotiations process. Any hiatus invites angry and pointless arguments. Therefore, the very fact that the talks are scheduled to resume should be welcomed. Contacts are held through various channels, and things will continue this way. Now, for the time being, the only clear thing we can say about Syria is that its desire for peace has been expressed more explicitly.

As for our actual questions on concrete issues, we have still not received a satisfactory response. I think that we are now at a stage where the peace process must move forward. None of the parties has the option to retreat. All the threats are empty words. What can Syria go back to? To a Russian orientation again? What can the Palestinians go back to? To another military confrontation or war of words? What will anybody gain from that? The peace process is the only alternative, and in my opinion, we are now at the most crucial stage, and every party wants to achieve the maximum it can. I hope that our nerves and wisdom will see us through, and prevent us from succumbing to fleeting temptations. The negotiations call for mutual compromise. The Palestinians will not get all they want, and neither will Israel. Because, if each party insisted on getting everything it wanted, then they would remain in their fixed positions and no agreements could be reached. I believe that there is quite a good chance of reaching agreement with the Palestinians. They have surmounted their internal crisis, and whether or not they issue some declarations to beautify things is not of importance. There is a delegation with which we are negotiating, and we will also negotiate with the Syrians. As things stand now, the Syrians want to negotiate through two channels: the Washington track, which is fine; and through the mobile channel of U.S. shuttle diplomacy, which is also fine. We are determined in our positions, we are not prone to moodiness nor do we fall for political fads.

[Lidar] Mr. Peres, thank you very much.

'Political Sources' on PLO Crisis, Syrian Attitude

TA1308104393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Ori Nir, and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Political sources in Jerusalem said last night they were to some extent pleased that the crisis in the PLO is over. They hoped the PLO's more moderate position on Jerusalem and the settlements, as voiced during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit in the region, would remain in effect at the peace talks in Washington. [passage omitted]

[A report by Amnon Barzilay, Washington correspondent Sari'el Shani, and Yoram Binur on page 6 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 13 August adds: "It transpires from the document presented by the Palestinians to the U.S. secretary of state that the U.S. and Palestinian positions have not drawn any closer. Political sources in Jerusalem said that the concept is totally different. 'Any novice negotiator would reject the Palestinian document out of hand; it is a catastrophe. The Americans asked the Palestinians to submit their observations to the U.S. document of principles, and instead received a totally different paper. Both Israel and the United States believe it is absolutely impossible to reconcile the two documents.' A similar evaluation was submitted to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The document, which was drafted without consulting the members of the delegation to the peace talks, details the Palestinians' demands concerning the self-government."]

A senior Israeli source in Washington noted last night that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reportedly told Christopher that he is aware of the price he is being asked to pay in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

According to this source, al-Asad's clarifications in the talk with Christopher somewhat dispelled the vagueness that existed in Israel as to the meaning of the slogan "full peace in exchange for full withdrawal" introduced into the peace process three months ago by Syria.

The source added: "Some elements in Israel had doubts and questions as to what the (Syrian) slogan 'full peace' meant." Now, he said, it is clear that the Syrians understand what their demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights entails. "The secretary of state came away with a distinct feeling that Syria understands the essence of the process; that this is a peace rather than a nonbelligerence process," he said.

Adding that this constitutes "real progress in the Syrian position," the senior source pointed out that this progress would be tested in the upcoming round of talks.

According to him, the test will be on two main criteria: First, if the Syrian Government is prepared to stop the argument with the Israeli delegation over whether Israel must first commit itself to a full withdrawal from the Golan or Syria must first voice its willingness to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

The chances of such progress lie in the deliberations on the security arrangements between the two countries. In the last round of talks Israel had tried to initiate a discussion of "the security regime" along with the willingness for a full withdrawal.

The senior Israeli source in Washington added that the second level on which the extent of the progress will be tested is in the public expression that Damascus gives to the significant change in its positions. [passage omitted]

Beilin: 11th Round To Center on Early Empowerment

TA1208130993 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Aug 93 p 2

[Report by the correspondent in Washington]

[Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin yesterday assessed that the 11th round of talks between Israel and the Palestinians will center on the issue of early empowerment, and that perhaps it will be possible to formulate a joint draft declaration of principles which would include the issue of early empowerment and Palestinian taxation rights in the territories.

Regarding the Syrian track, Beilin said that Christopher's shuttle mission created the impression that the Syrians are committed to a serious negotiations process aimed at a peace agreement. Beilin expressed the hope that this attitude will also be reflected in the direct talks with the Syrians.

Beilin, who briefed Israeli correspondents in Washington, also assessed that henceforth the negotiations will be held along to parallel tracks: The Washington talks on the one hand, and U.S. envoys' shuttle missions in the Middle East on the other. [passage omitted]

'Source' Expresses Hope for Progress in 11th Round

TA1208170193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The peace talks will resume in Washington on Monday, 30 August, and will be held continuously until the Rosh Hashana holidays in mid-September. This was stated a short while ago by a senior Israeli source in Washington. Our correspondent Arye Golan is on the telephone line from Washington:

Good evening. The 11th round of talks are resuming in Washington. According to a senior Israeli source here, no breakthrough is expected in the next round of talks. Nevertheless—after the visit by Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East and his meetings with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad—the Syrians understand now that they cannot demand that Israel fully withdraw from the Golan Heights while offering in return only nonbelligerency, and nothing more.

The senior Israeli source also hoped that real progress would be made in the 11th round of talks and that it would be publicly expressed, as he put it. Regarding the upgrading of the level of negotiators, the source said: It is too early to discuss this, from both Israel's and Syria's point of view. He was referring to raising the level of participants to that of Foreign Ministers Shim'on Peres and Faruq al-Shar'.

The source attributed the relatively flexible stand recently adopted by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to the emerging chance to make progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, which always makes the Palestinians fear that their track will be left behind, where no one wants to be if the talks do make progress in the coming round, which is to begin in Washington shortly.

Netanyahu, Shamir Demand Halt to Talks with PLO

TA1308133593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu demands that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressly announce that Israel will not negotiate with Palestinians who are official members of the PLO. Netanyahu pointed out that prior to the Madrid conference, the Arabs had promised that PLO members would not participate in the negotiations. The Likud chairman stressed that if Rabin failed to object to violations of this commitment, then any other commitments made by the Arabs in the course of the peace talks would lack validity. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reported on Netanyahu's remarks.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the Rabin government had destroyed the wall that the Likud government had tried to establish between the delegation made up of the residents of the territories and the PLO. However, Shamir said that the intention to abandon the Golan Heights was even worse, and the remarks made by Rabin's confidant, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, on an existing agreement for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, dwarf all the other issues. Shamir also asserted that the prime minister was not doing anything to retain his credibility with regard to the Golan Heights, and was only concerned with maintaining his credibility on issues pertaining to the Der'i affair.

UN Commander, Rabin Discuss Lebanese Army Deployment

TA1208164493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The commander of UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] hopes Lebanese Army soldiers will successfully curb katyusha attacks on Israel, but believes one should wait and see how the situation develops. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Major General Trond Furuhovde from Norway made these remarks today in a meeting with the prime minister and defense minister in his office in Tel Aviv. The encounter was officially termed as a first courtesy meeting between the two men since Gen. Furuhovde assumed command of UNIFIL about six months ago.

Defense Minister Rabin reminded his guest that in the talks in Washington the Lebanese rejected Israel's proposal to set up military committees to coordinate the efforts to bring about stability to the region.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in English at 1430 GMT on 12 August adds: "The deputy chief of staff, Major General Amnon Shahaq, was also present at the meeting. According to a Defense Ministry spokesman, the Hizballah terrorist activities in south Lebanon were not discussed. However, the UNIFIL commander told reporters the subject of the Lebanese Army deployment in the south did come up. He said there would be no rivalry between the two forces."]

Beilin, Butrus-Ghali Discuss Operation

TA1208181893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has invited UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to visit Israel and confer with its leaders in order to better understand the reasons for Operation Accountability. Beilin told the UN secretary general that his reaction to the Israeli operation in Lebanon had been one-sided and had failed to make any mention of Hizballah's attacks on Israel. The deputy foreign minister met the UN secretary general in New York this evening. Beilin was later interviewed by our correspondent Arye Golan.

[Begin recording] [Golan] Sir, what did you discuss with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali?

[Beilin] The first issue was his personal reaction to Operation Accountability in Lebanon. I told him Israel considered it unbalanced. While reacting very harshly to the operation itself, he hardly made any mention of the reasons for it. He did not mention Hizballah, at least not in his initial reaction. We, in Israel, had expected a far more balanced reaction, particularly in view of the fact that the Security Council did not agree with the nature of his reaction. He said he received very harsh reactions from the Arab world, which also considered his reaction unbalanced because it made some mention of actions against Israel, while they had been expecting only a full and absolute denunciation of Israel.

[Golan] Later on in the meeting Beilin raised Israel's demand for a broader deployment of Lebanese Army troops in the areas controlled by UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] in the south, amid increased coordination between the two forces.

[Beilin] In my opinion, it is in the interest of the United Nations to be involved in the creation of a channel of communication between the Lebanese Army and Israel in order to avoid unnecessary accidents and violence. He said he understood that, but at the same time he was very apprehensive about the side effects such action would have elsewhere around the world seeing that the UN position in such situations is to avoid friction with another army. The moment UN troops are stationed somewhere, he insisted, they should be the only ones operating in the area, whereas in this case several armies would be involved. That is why he fears that agreement to such cooperation would hurt the UN in other places in the world.

[Golan] On another matter, the deputy minister expressed concern about the messages Jewish leaders in the United States have been conveying to the U.S. Administration.

[Beilin] U.S. Jews are traditionally apprehensive about excessive involvement of the U.S. Administration in the Middle East conflict, whereas the Israeli Government derives great encouragement from Secretary Christopher's willingness to engage in shuttle diplomacy in the region. They told me that such opposition on their part could weaken the U.S. interest in being involved in the process. That worried me, because I do not believe we can attain peace in the Middle East without the Americans. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Court Refuses To Rule on Mistreatment of Palestinians

NC1208194493 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 12 (AFP)—Israel's Supreme Court on Thursday [12 August] refused to rule on the alleged mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners during interrogation by the Shin Bet secret police.

The three supreme court judges said the petition presented by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel does not require "the court to rule on the legal aspect of the Landau commission" on Shin Bet activities.

The government commission chaired by Judge Moshe Landau in 1987 legalized the use of "moderate physical pressure" during interrogation. The kind of pressure allowed was never made public.

The Committee Against Torture called for voiding the Landau commission's conclusions and the publication of the secret part of the report. They also wanted to know why the Shin Bet cannot be asked to do their jobs without using "physical pressure."

The court said the petition was too general and that it can only rule on "concrete cases."

Jewish Numbers in East Jerusalem 'Growing Rapidly'

TA1108134193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 93 p A5

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] Currently, there is a very small Jewish majority in East Jerusalem, but this majority is growing rapidly as a result of the accelerated population of the new neighborhoods in north Jerusalem. This transpires from data included in the annual report on the "housing potential in Jerusalem," prepared by the municipality's department for policy planning.

This constitutes the first statistical confirmation of the fact that a Jewish majority has emerged in the eastern part of the city over the past year. Avraham Kahila, deputy mayor for planning, reported on this development to the members of the local planning committee approximately two months ago.

Data included in the report, on the population breakdown in Jerusalem according to neighborhoods, shows that the population of Jerusalem now numbers 564,300 people, out of which 413,700 are Jews (73.3 percent) and 150,600 non-Jews (26.3 percent). Approximately 303,400 people live in the areas of East Jerusalem, or in other words, the areas to the north, south, and east of Jerusalem that were annexed to the city after the 1967 war. Of these, 152,800 are Jews, and 150,600 are Arabs.

As for the division between Jewish residential housing in the western and eastern parts of the city, the data indicates that 260,900 Jews (64 percent of the Jewish population) live in the western part of the city, meaning in the areas included in the pre-1967 municipal jurisdiction, while 152,800 Jews (34 percent of the Jewish population) live in areas annexed to the city after 1967.

The assessment that the Jewish majority in the eastern part of the city will grow at quite a rapid rate is based on the tables published in the report, which deal with the potential for residential construction in Jerusalem according to the stage of the various plans in Jerusalem in general and in East Jerusalem in particular: whether these plans have already been approved and are being implemented; plans not yet at the implementation stage; plans still waiting for approval; or future plans.

The report presents figures regarding the potential for an additional 31,143 housing units in the Jewish neighborhoods, as opposed to a potential for only 15,210 units in the non-Jewish neighborhoods. In total, there is the potential for another 46,300 housing units in Jerusalem. If the data pertaining to East Jerusalem alone is isolated, then one is talking about a potential for an additional 17,700 housing units for Jews and another 15,210 housing units for Arabs.

However, while the approved plans received by the Arabs remain only on paper, part of the potential for Jewish housing in the Jewish quarter of East Jerusalem is already under construction: 4,933 housing units, almost a third of the potential Jewish construction in East Jerusalem.

Another comparison of the construction potential on the Jewish side, between the eastern and western parts of the city, shows that more apartments for Jews are today being planned in the eastern part of the city than the west: 17,210 housing units in East Jerusalem, as opposed to 13,433 in the west.

Construction in Territories Reported Slowing

NC1208163993 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 12 (AFP)—Israeli building in the occupied territories has slowed considerably in the year since Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin came to power, but thousands of Jewish homes are still going up, official figures show.

From July 1992 to last March, the construction of 2,510 homes was started on the West Bank and Gaza Strip compared with 6,440 during the last nine months of the pro-settlement government of Yitzhaq Shamir, according to latest figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Rabin's Labour-led coalition has slashed the government's share of construction from 84 percent during the nine months before his election victory on June 23 to 61 percent to today. The remainder is privately financed.

The slowdown is stronger in the number of homes "under active construction" with 5,640 units for the first three months of this year compared with 10,020 for the same period of 1992.

However, under Rabin the number of houses completed has increased to 5,690 in his first nine months against 3,090 in the last nine months of Shamir's term.

Rabin cut 7,000 units from the previous government's building programme in the territories but said he could not break contracts agreed on 11,000 more which had to be completed.

The government's freeze on further settlement of the territories does not include Jerusalem, the Jordan valley and "security settlements" considered vital to national security.

More than 100,000 Israelis have settled in the West Bank and Gaza Strip alongside nearly two million Palestinians, who are bitterly opposed to the Jewish presence. The 11,000 new units will be able to house more than 50,000 extra settlers.

Invitation To 11th Round of Peace Talks Received

JN1308120893 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs said that the Jordanian Government has received a verbal invitation to take part in the coming round of bilateral peace negotiations in Washington on the 30th of August. Mr. [Talal] Sat'an al-Hasan received the invitation at his office this morning by the U.S. and Russian charges d'affaires in Amman.

'Satisfaction' Expressed on End to Palestinian 'Crisis'

JN1308120293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has expressed satisfaction with the Palestinian brothers' ability to overcome their political crisis and emerge with a unified position.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, he reaffirmed Jordan's principled and firm commitment to providing all possible help and assistance to the Palestinian brothers and their negotiating position in order to achieve the desired objectives. This means regaining all the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian Arab people's national and legitimate rights on their entire national soil, al-Hasan added.

King Visits Army General Command, Meets U.S. Delegation

JN1208165593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited General Command headquarters before noon today. His majesty was welcomed by Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the land forces chief of staff, aides of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the inspector general, and the Royal Air Force chief of staff.

During a meeting with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, his majesty discussed several issues of interest to the Armed Forces.

His majesty the supreme commander also met with a U.S. Congress delegation on a visit to the General Command. He reviewed with them the situation in the region in general. His majesty affirmed the importance of supporting and promoting the peace process to achieve security and stability in the region and for future generations.

In the presence of his majesty the supreme commander, members of the guest delegation listened to a briefing on the Jordanian Armed Forces' development in various fields and the humanitarian role they are playing to keep peace and security in various locations in the world.

The U.S. Congress delegation arrived in Amman yesterday evening on an official visit to Jordan lasting several days.

Al-Majali Meets U.S. Official

JN1208171993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] In his Prime Ministry office this afternoon, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received Earl Hutto, head of the Readiness Subcommittee of the Armed Forces Committee at the U.S. House of Representatives, and the accompanying delegation, who are currently visiting Jordan.

During the meeting, the prime minister reviewed developments in the Middle East peace process. He stressed Jordan's commitment to the peace process in order to secure the restoration of the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, without which a comprehensive peace cannot be achieved. He stressed Jordan's commitment to the restoration of the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights over their national soil and to the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The prime minister demanded clearer Israeli positions. He called on it to hold direct negotiations with the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Dr. al-Majali briefed the delegation on the general situation in Jordan, especially the development of the Jordanian economy and the challenges it faced as a result of the Gulf crisis. He reviewed the economic, social, and services burdens produced by the forced return of over 300,000 Jordanian citizens from Kuwait and the Gulf states, and as a result of the continued economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

Dr. al-Majali reviewed the water crisis Jordan is suffering from as a result of Israel's seizure of Jordan River water and the Israeli denial of Jordan's rights to these waters.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, information minister; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Dr. Khalid al-Zu'bi, minister of state for legal affairs.

U.S. Action in Somalia 'No Different' Than in Iraq

JN1308091193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Aug 93 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "From Baghdad to Mogadishu"]

[Text] What the Americans are doing against the Somali people is the same thing that they have been doing against the Iraqi people for the last three years. The language they use when they speak about Baghdad is no

different than the language they use when they speak about Mogadishu. Here are the Somali people, and there are the Iraqi people; under the blue flag of the United Nations, and with the same allegations and excuses, the racial war is launched against two peoples for the same reason—to get rid of their leaderships.

When the Americans brought half a million soldiers to the Gulf, and none of these soldiers engaged in real combat, at the expense of the Arabs and Muslims, their declared objective was to oust the Iraqis from Kuwait. [sentence as published] This objective was realized through a devastating war that targeted all of the Iraqi people's achievements: factories, schools, water networks, electricity stations, archaeological sites, hospitals, baby milk factories, and shelters for women, children, and the disabled. This racial war was launched from the Red Sea, the Arabian desert, and from the four corners of the world. Even long after the Iraqis left Kuwait, this war has not stopped. It is still going on against all Iraqi people—north and south, Muslims and Christians, Shiites and Sunnis, Arabs and Kurds. The declared U.S. objective is to liquidate President Saddam Husayn.

In Somalia, the Americans came in after a year-long propaganda campaign that showed the famine-stricken and bony Somali children looking for a grain of rice. The U.S. military campaign was dubbed "Operation Restore Hope." Two weeks later, we faced another campaign aimed at the slaughter of the Somali people under the same old U.S. pretext— the capture of Mohamed Farah Aidid, leader of the Somali national resistance, through the liquidation of all Somalis.

Voices are heard these days condemning the U.S. aggression against Somalia and exposing the UN-financed U.S. operation, which is continuing under the UN blue. The Americans forgot everything, and they ended up with a new nightmare named Aidid, who is provoking the big powers that control the world. Instead of apologizing to the Somali people, the Arabs, and Muslims for its massacres in Somalia, and instead of apologizing to the international community for what it is doing, the United States announces that it will not leave Somalia before 1994. This announcement, which was made in Washington yesterday, emphasizes just how "irrational" the superpower has become, and how Aidid and his people have succeeded in provoking the monster, leaving it rushing headlong into the Somali jungle, using all its political, economic, military, and media capabilities to hunt down a man whose only crime is that he chose to courageously fight the enemies of his homeland.

Iraqi Oil Minister in Amman on 'Semi-Official' Visit

JN1208120593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Aug 93 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah al-Hiti is currently in Jordan on what Iraqi diplomatic sources describe as a semi-official visit.

It was the first foreign visit of Mr. al-Hiti after talks adjourned inconclusively at the U.N. headquarters last month on a one-time Iraqi export of oil worth $1.6 billion.

"The minister is in Amman on a semi-official visit and will return at the end of the week," said an Iraqi diplomatic source without elaboration.

The source also declined comment when asked whether bilateral Jordanian-Iraqi issues were the focus of Mr. al-Hiti's visit.

Another source familiar with the Iraqi-U.N. negotiations hinted that Mr. al-Hiti was here on a mission during which he was "pursuing contacts that started at the U.N. last month."

The source rejected suggestions that Mr. al-Hiti was supposed to meet with Gabon's Jean Ping, president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Amman, to discuss the possible impact of Iraq reaching an agreement with the U.N. on oil exports. There was no report of Mr. Ping being in Amman this week.

Reports of Amman being the venue for such a meeting emerged last month when the OPEC president toured the Gulf states at the peak of Iraqi-U.N. negotiations on a possible return of Iraqi oil to the international markets.

Some of the Gulf states were reported to be leading opposition to allowing Iraq to export any amount of oil at this stage.

"Iraq no longer considers OPEC a neutral organisation, particularly after it tried to block Iraqi oil exports," said the source, referring reports that the cartel felt that oil prices could plunge dramatically if Iraqi crude enters the already glutted market.

"Contacts with OPEC will be made as and when Iraq finds it fit to do so," added that source. "And when it does it will be on its own terms."

REUTER news agency said Wednesday [11 August] that Mr. al-Hiti himself declined comment on the negotiations with the U.N.

"Our policy now is not to comment on anything related to that," the news agency quoted the minister as saying.

According to the Iraqi source, Baghdad "is keeping all options open and will exercise them on its own time."

"If Iraq could survive for three years under such severe conditions, then it can continue for a few months more," said the source, referring to the sweeping international trade embargo imposed on the country following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Receive Japanese Official

JN1208123493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received in his office at the Prime Ministry this morning Toshinori Fujii, deputy director general of the Middle East and African Affairs office at the Japanese Foreign Ministry. Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, attended.

Bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting. The prime minister and the Japanese guest stressed that the two friendly countries are concerned for supporting and promoting bilateral relations and expanding joint cooperation in the economic and other fields. The two sides also reviewed developments of the current Middle East bilateral and multilateral peace talks, and Japan's positive role in supporting this process. The Japanese ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Talal al-Hasan also received the Japanese official. They reviewed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. The guest voiced satisfaction with bilateral relations and stressed the need for bolstering and promoting them.

For his part, al-Hasan stressed Jordan's appreciation of Japan's efforts in the peace process. He commended Japan's contributions and proposals made in the multilateral committee meetings, whether through chairing the environment committee or through Japan's role in other committees, particularly the economic committee.

Al-Hasan also stressed Jordan's commitment to the bilateral and multilateral peace talks in order to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on international legitimacy, on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and on Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as well as on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

For his part, the Japanese guest commended Jordan's effective role in the peace process, and lauded both its fruitful participation and the efforts of its delegations in the multilateral meetings.

Planning Minister Cited on New 5-Year Plan

JN1208104993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Aug 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The government has drawn up a five-year plan which focuses on developing the economic and social sectors with strong involvement of both private and public sectors, but it is totally different from earlier five-year plans that the kingdom had adopted, officials said Wednesday [11 August].

Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz, in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, emphasised that the 1993-97 plan was completely "new in orientation, objectives and mechanism for application" when compared with the Kingdom's earlier five-year development plans.

He said the plan envisages a total cost of JD [Jordanian dinars] 5,132 million of which the public sector's contribution will be JD 1,874 million.

Jordan has been implementing five-year development plans since the early 1970s under which specific projects and programmes were set out as targets to be achieved within the scope of the plans.

Objectives and goals of these plans were not fully achieved, and every phased plan had to carry over projects from its predecessor.

When faced with a severe monetary crisis which scrambled its economy in 1988, Jordan had to abandon its last five-year plan.

Mr. Fariz stressed that the new plan was not a substitute for the economic restructuring programme that Jordan is implementing to overcome its economic crisis, further exacerbated by the Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in august 1990.

"The plan aims at promoting the social and economic sectors of Jordan and its programmes complement the economic restructuring programme," Mr. Fariz told Petra.

"It serves as a general framework for developing the social and economic sectors since it covers financial, health, educational, investment and administrative aspects," he said.

"It will focus on (solutions to the) unemployment problem and poverty and will also seek to enhance democracy since it will increase popular participation in decisionmaking at the widest possible level," he added.

The minister said the plan "reflects the government's orientation to promote vocational training, education, health services, and infrastructure such as water, electricity, communications and social services."

Another senior official meanwhile dismissed criticism that Jordan was following fixed-period development plans that were typical of socialist and communist economic systems with centralised planning.

"The Jordanian plan has nothing to do with such an approach. It is totally different from the long played-out programmes that socialist and communist countries adopted," said the official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"It does not set out any specified tightly-controlled and monitored targets in terms of implementation and completion of projects.

"The plan mostly focuses on recommendations and suggestions to the government in terms of economic and social policies," explained the official.

"The private and public sectors have their distinctive roles in the plan which would be further crystallised as we go along," he said. "The envisaged amounts are no way definitive since a lot depends on the private sector's participation.

Other officials familiar with the plan, which took months to produce, said it envisaged opening up hitherto restricted sectors of the economy to the private sector in phases based on priorities.

"The plan sets the atmosphere for closer involvement by the private sector in various sectors of the economy with a very clear idea of the national goals and objectives," said one of the officials.

Mr. Fariz also referred to the same concept and said that the plan was "not a mere document for centralised planning which has proved futile in any economic system."

"The plan represents a general policy that would guarantee for the private and public sectors a tool for coordination and integration between economic investments and commercial policies," the minister said.

"The plan is dynamic in nature and will have its impact on the services and industrial sectors, enhancing self-reliance and national potential and will enable Jordan to proceed with plans laid down for economic and administrative reforms," he added.

The plan, he said seeks to free the economy from constraints and opens the door to the private sector "to fully assume the task of production and create the ideal climate for investment."

Foreign Ministry Receives 11th Round Invitation

NC1208202193 Paris AFP in English 1958 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, Aug 12 (AFP)—Lebanon has been invited to attend the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks starting August 30 in Washington, foreign ministry sources said here Thursday [12 August].

The U.S. ambassador in Lebanon, Ryan Crocker, and the Russian charge d'affaires here, Nikolay Kartuzov, gave the invitation to Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, the sources said.

The 10th round of Middle East peace talks involving Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians ended in Washington on July 1.

In Amman, Palestinian peace delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi also told AFP that Washington had proposed August 30 for the next round of talks, but she did not mention any official invitation.

Palestinian delegation leader Faysal al-Husayni told reporters in the Jordanian capital that he believed the Palestinians would be able to attend the next round of negotiations at the end of the month in Washington.

Legislative Delegates Find 'Sympathy' in Washington

NC1208205893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Deputy 'Imad Jabir has described as successful the visit to Washington by a Lebanese parliamentary delegation comprising himself and Deputy Nasib Lahhud. The visit, he pointed out, aimed to explain Lebanon's views concerning the Israeli aggression. The Lebanese position, as explained by the delegation, was met with sympathy and understanding, he added.

Deputy Jabir said that Congressman George Mitchell sent a message to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in which he called on the Clinton administration to make Lebanon one of the priorities of U.S. foreign policy.

In a news conference he held today, Jabir reviewed the opinions expressed by the delegation in its talks in the United States. One of these was that Israel has not gained anything from its aggression, because the Lebanese Government's position has always been one of opposition to Katyusha shelling. Resistance is a right for all peoples, the delegation stated.

The Lebanese delegation also voiced Lebanon's commitment to the peace process. Lebanon, the delegation pointed out, coordinates its position with sister Syria and other front-line countries. There is a need to facilitate the Lebanese Army's task of extending the state's power over the entire Lebanese territories, the delegation explained.

Concerning the economy, the Lebanese delegation reiterated the Lebanese Government's request for the assistance of the World Bank for construction. The Lebanese delegation called on the United States to lift the ban imposed on the Middle East Airlines company and increase its assistance to educational institutes in Lebanon.

Deputies Jabir and Lahhud earlier visited Prime Minister al-Hariri and briefed him on their talks in Washington.

Security Source Sees Return of Hizballah in Iranian Aid

NC1208163093 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1530 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Reacting to reports that Iran intends to send food and medical supplies to the inhabitants of the south Lebanese villages, which were damaged by the Israeli army operations, a ranking security source has told our correspondent that he warns the south Lebanese people against being misled by this Iranian maneuver.

The security source said that this maneuver aims at enabling Hizballah to gain control of dozens of Lebanese villages in the south. He said that the Iranian decision seeks to return the south to the situation prior to the Israeli operation. This will expose the citizens to new dangers, the source added.

The source advises the inhabitants of the towns and villages not to allow Hizballah men to return to their villages and areas.

Minister Afram, Others Offer Comment on Dismissal

NC1208190693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The dismissal of Minister George Afram may have some repercussions, despite repeated assurances to the opposite. The Lebanese-Syrian summit that will be held in the next few days is expected to look into the government's situation as well as bilateral relations, regional developments, and the peace talks.

Our radio correspondent telephoned Minister George Afram, who is in Switzerland, this afternoon. He told us that his request for the opinion of the Consultative Council is a legal matter that should have been treated as such. It is a civilized request that deserves to take its course. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah commented on Afram's dismissal. He said that the issue can be looked upon from two aspects. The change of portfolios, he said, was unconstitutional. The dismissal, he added, was an inappropriate action, from both the personal and political points of view. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij said that the dismissal of Afram took place in a democratic framework. We live in a democratic system and all decisions are made within that system, he said.

Al-Asad Comments on Requirements for Peace, U.S. Role

NC1308111193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] A Lebanese-Syrian summit is expected at the beginning of next week; on Monday [16 August], to be specific. Discussions will focus on all aspects of the peace negotiations. President al-Asad expressed his stand on these negotiations today.

Al-Asad said that we need to assume that the coming round of talks will have positive results, especially since we have noticed greater attention by the United States, perhaps stemming from the importance of the negotiations to American interests.

President al-Asad renewed his commitment to the land-for-peace formula. He said we know that peace has its requirements, for which we have to prepare ourselves. Wars, even between enemies, do not last forever. Wars are governed by the laws of life, the balance of power, and international circumstances. They go through periods of truce and perhaps periods controlled by the laws of reconciliation.

President al-Asad stressed the need for a comprehensive solution and full withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace. He said we cannot take a step unilaterally or make a decision that could reflect negatively on our brothers and comrades of fate. Our demand for a comprehensive solution comes from the fact that we care about what is being proposed to our Palestinian brothers and what they accept or reject. We cannot proceed without them or overtake them.

President al-Asad adds: We are demanding our occupied land. Lebanon is doing the same. No one contests the Syrian identity of the Golan Heights or the Lebanese identity of southern Lebanon. As for Palestine, the struggle there is over identity, the land, geographic jurisdiction, and the political rights of the Palestinian people. These are very complicated issues and must have a framework and a starting point, as well as a course that sets the minds of the Palestinians at ease that they will realize their demands, even if it happens in stages as is the case with autonomy.

President al-Asad concludes by saying that only after all these things are addressed and not before can we begin talking about the requisites and consequences of all our discussions. However, this should not prevent us from preparing ourselves to bar the Israelis from realizing through peace those things that they have failed to achieve through war.

Israeli 'Plans' To 'Judaize' Jerusalem Alleged

JN1308082293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The U.S. Administration seeks to hold the 11th round of peace talks, stressing its concern for the Middle East issue, and giving it priority on its list of hot international issues. At the same time, the Rabin government has revealed plans to annex and Judaize occupied Arab Jerusalem, turning the city into settlements accommodating thousands of Israelis and Jews newly immigrating into occupied Palestine.

AL-THAWRAH adds that these recently disclosed plans, which have begun to be implemented on the ground, are tools designed to undermine and obstruct the peace process. These plans are an attempt to prevent any breakthroughs that may place the region on the path to a just settlement and a comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Israeli leaders' policy on the peace process—from the time it was unleashed at the Madrid conference and throughout the 10 rounds that yielded nothing—is the same policy that is currently employed on all tracks. This policy is represented by continued aggression, the building of settlements, and the rejection of both the terms of reference of the peace process and the U.S. initiative on exchanging land for peace. Israel's policy is also characterized by a constant refusal to comply with UN and Security Council resolutions. These resolutions stipulate Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

The paper also points out that Rabin's policy only entrenches the policy of his predecessor Shamir. It reacts to U.S. envoys and new rounds of peace talks by inaugurating a settlement or aggravating the situation by direct, devastating aggression, not to mention its acts of repression.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH urges the U.S. cosponsor to curb Israel and place its policy on the path of a real, just, and comprehensive peace; namely, the path of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Decree Lists New Government Appointees

LD1208191993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The press department of the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has reported that, under a decree of the esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the following appointments have been made:

1. Esteemed Engineer Ubaydollah Sirat as minister councillor;
2. Esteemed Mohammad Hadi Hadi as minister councillor; and
3. Esteemed Modir Abdol Ghafer Sayem as minister councillor and acting head of the Department of Clans and Tribal Affairs of Afghanistan's Islamic State presidency.

India

Rao Refuses To 'Succumb' to 'Pressure' on Missile Issue

BK1308091293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, today assured the Rajya Sabha that there is no question of succumbing to pressure from any quarter in regard to India's missile program. He was responding to the concern expressed by the members about the reported U.S. pressure on India's defense projects. The issue was raised by Mr. J.P. Mathur, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. Joining him, the members from the CPI [Communist Party of India] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] wanted the government to assure the House that it will not succumb to any pressure.

Kashmir Police Vow To Halt March 'At All Costs'

BK1208150293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 12 (AFP)—Security was beefed up in this summer capital of Kashmir Thursday [12 August] to prevent a protest march called by Moslems, as 12 people died overnight in the troubled Indian state, police said.

Federal border guards ringed the downtown Lal Chowk area and carried out searches in houses in the district to foil the proposed march from there to the city's main mosque on Friday, the police said.

"We have to see that no gathering takes place here. Outsiders will not be allowed to stay overnight in Lal Chowk today and it will be completely sealed," said Border Security Force (BSF) deputy commandant Gursharan Singh.

"We will foil the march at all costs," added Kashmir police chief Balwinder Singh Bedi.

The outlawed Tehreek-i-Mujahideen (Militants of the Movement) group has announced the march to demand Kashmir's secession from India, two days ahead of the country's independence day.

Meanwhile, some 3,000 Moslem protestors took part in a ceremony here on Thursday to revert a Moslem shrine—allegedly desecrated by BSF soldiers when they shot two persons inside it on August 3—to its former "purity".

The Moslems chanted anti-India slogans like "We want freedom," and "Infidels leave our Kashmir" during the ceremony, witnesses said.

Eight militants were among 12 people killed since late Wednesday [11 August] in violence linked to the separatist campaign in the Kashmir valley, police said.

Security forces shot dead five rebels in the district of Kupwara, which borders Pakistan, and three more elsewhere. No details were available about the other four deaths.

Kashmiri militants are fighting to secede from India. Thousands have died in the campaign in the past four years.

India accuses Pakistan of training the rebels. Islamabad denies the charge.

Naga Activists' Attack Kills 6 Soldiers, Injures 5

BK1308033093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] In Manipur, six army jawans [soldiers] were killed and five seriously injured in an ambush by underground Naga activists at Sankhai on the Imphal-Ukrur Road yesterday evening. Reports say the victims were attacked when they were returning from Laltal Pankhul village. A massive combing operation has been launched to nab the ultras.

Planning Commission Official Reports First Trade Surplus

BK1208152293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The country for the first time has recorded a trade surplus in the first quarter of the current year with an export growth of 27 percent. The deputy chairman of the Planning Commission stated this while speaking at function in Calcutta today. Mr. Mukherjee said the economy has been put back on the rails through the liberalization policy adopted by the center. Mr. Mukherjee stressed the need for massive investment in agriculture and creating employment opportunities of 100 million man-days to cope with the challenges posed by the changes all over the world.

Iran

Armenia Warned To Withdraw From Azerbaijani Territory

LD1208162693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Following continued Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan's territory, and intensifying operations in the Fizuli area, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement condemning these aggressions and demanding the speedy and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied areas in Azerbaijan.

The statement says that the Iranian Foreign Ministry seriously warns the Armenian forces against repeating these aggressions, which are taking place alonside the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In addition to declaring that it cannot remain indifferent toward these aggressions, the Foreign Ministry's statements draw the attention of the world community, in particular the Islamic countries, to the delicate situation in this area of crisis; a crisis which has been imposed against an independent and Muslim country.

The Foreign Ministry stresses that the only way to resolve and put an end to this long-standing and sorrowful conflict is to use peaceful means.

Velayati Attacks West's 'War of Cultures, Values'

LD1208115093 Tehran IRNA in English 1138 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday [12 August] said Iran is looking for a new world order based on human values contrary to what is being sought by the U.S.

Addressing Iran's cultural representatives abroad, currently here for their 5th seminar, Velayati added: "The Islamic revolution in Iran proved to the world Muslims that they can be self-reliant and independent of the world arrogant powers."

Stressing that the present war that the West has staged against Islam is a war of cultures and values, the minister said that defeat in that war would mean failure in all fronts.

"Cultural values are fulcrum of Islam," he noted, adding that westerners were making efforts to weaken those values.

He referred to Salman Rushdie's case as a symbol of the "war of values" between Islam and the U.S. and reiterated that divine values were sacred and thus should not be disrespected.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran endeavors to move towards elevation of Islamic culture while the West is trying to prevail materialistic culture the world over," he stressed.

The week-long seminar of Iranian cultural envoys will end August 17.

Commentary Details Reasons Ministers Should Be Anti-U.S.

NC1208120293 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Aug 93 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari: "Why Anti-American?"]

[Excerpts] In the first few days after Dr. Larijani was appointed minister of Islamic guidance, the great leader of the revolution met him and stressed that he should choose as his associates only those who are anti-American. This proves the importance of this distinctive trait for cabinet ministers and the president's deputies. Therefore, one can safely state that a minister who does not have any enmity with the United States does not have the correct perception and recognition of the revolution's origin and status, and he is therefore not fit to hold a ministerial position in the cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This statement is neither an "anomaly" nor "hyperbole" for the following reasons: Conflict between Iran and the United States is rooted in the essence and natures of the two sides, and the point of conflict is "Islam." As long as Iran relies on "Islam" and the United States continues in its arrogant ways, this conflict will continue. This is because it is in the nature of the United States to be arrogant. Opposition to and hostility toward arrogance is Islamic in essence; therefore, any reconciliation between Iran and the United States can only be possible if one of the sides relinquished its basis of "Islam"! In such a case, our system would then not be an Islamic one.

If the United States were to abandon its arrogant attitude—this is wishful thinking, and a figment of the imagination of those living in a fool's paradise—we can interpret "enmity against the United States" as "belief in the Islamic Republic" and deem it synonymous with "adherence to Islam."

Thus, when there is mention of ministers being anti-U.S. as a prerequisite, it is not a matter of personal taste, but of their adherence to Islam and the Islamic system. This is because if they are not enemies with the United States, if they are in collusion with the "highway bandits," then certainly they cannot prove to be loyal members of the "caravan," but are foolish and idiotic individuals. Hence they are not fit to hold ministerial posts in any case. [passage omitted]

Attention to this topic is important when one considers that Iran, which represents Islam in its entirety, is pitched against the United States, which represents the powers of world arrogance, in a full-fledged battle on all fronts. Therefore, when a group of ministers, under the unified leadership of the president, forms a government and has a fundamental and decisive role in guiding the system and policymaking, each of the individuals in the

system should be considered responsible for a section of this unified front. Each has a full range of responsibilities spread over a broad spectrum of issues and affairs pertaining to that particular ministry. If the commander and the person responsible for the battle lines cannot identify the enemy or one is in collusion with the enemy, or is even indifferent toward him, the outcome will be the same in all three cases; namely, the fall of the stronghold.

Khamane'i Meets Lebanese Hizballah Secretary General

LD1208161593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i this afternoon received the secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah Movement, who is in Tehran as the head of a delegation representing the movement's leadership.

During the meeting, Khamene'i praised the selflessness of the forces of the Islamic resistance, which is caused by a spiritual attitude and correct religious beliefs. The guardian of the cause of Muslims said: This spirit cannot be defeated or weakened by propaganda, commotion, and pandemonium, which are the usual policies and methods of the Zionist regime. The seven days of resistance and steadfastness by Hizballah combatants have opened a new chapter in the region's political history and have attracted the praise of the world.

The leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the all-encompassing sensitivity of the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the resistance of the Lebanese people against the Zionist regime. He said: Efforts to reconstruct the damaged residential areas must be placed at the top of Hizballah's agenda in order to guard and strengthen the attitude of resistance, steadfastness, unity, and integration against the savage aggressions of the Zionist regime.

Prior to the talk by the eminent leader, the Lebanese Hizballah secretary general reported on the aims and the savagery of the seven-day aggressions of the Zionist regime against the residential areas of Lebanon. He said: The Zionist regime has not only failed to achieve its declared political and military aims in the aggressions against the Muslim people of Lebanon, but the aggressions have also created greater unity and integrity among the people and government of Lebanon with the Islamic resistance movement. This aggression has also caused the strengthening and superiority of the position of the Islamic resistance movement among the people and governments of the region against the common designs of Israel and America, aimed at a compromise by Arabs regarding the Zionist regime.

In the meeting the Hizballah secretary general thanked and praised the recent political activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in strengthening and fortifying the position of Hizballah, as well as in reducing the suffering of the Muslim people of Lebanon, caused by the Zionist regime's aggressions.

Iraqi 'Provocations' Include 42 Cease-Fire Violations

LD1208193393 Tehran IRNA in English 1913 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 12, IRNA—The Ba'thist regime in Iraq violated the terms of its ceasefire agreement with Iran repeatedly and systematically in April, May, June of the current year, reports Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations. Kamal Kharrazi, in two separate letters addressed to the secretary general of the U.N. listed a total of 42 violations such as border skirmishes initiated by the Ba'thist forces and border crossings by the anti-revolutionaries, supported and armed by the Iraqi regime, for the purpose of committing subversive activities in the Iranian territory.

The detailed long list of violations committed between April 2, 1993 and June 22, 1993 includes attacks on the border posts, firing at Iranian forces, planting of field mines in the Iranian territory and clashing with Iranian forces which resulted in the "martyrdom of an Iranian soldier named 'Ali 'Abbasi." Kharrazi's latest reports to the U.N. secretary general come in a line of reports that he has provided on Iraq's provocations in the past months.

Navy Commander Comments on Delivery of Second Submarine

NC1308114393 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 8 Aug 93 p 2

[Text] The commander of the Navy yesterday announced the following: In order to boost the naval defensive capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman waters the second submarine has entered the waters of Bandar-e 'Abbas.

According to IRNA, Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran added: The submarine that entered the waters of Bandar-e' Abbas last Thursday [5 August] will boost the defense capability of the Navy in the southern waters.

He said: At present, our experts in the Navy have completely overhauled a hovercraft [preceding word in English] and two floating units. In addition, the reconstruction of our advanced electronic installations and workshops will be completed in the month of Mehr [23 September-22 October] in Bushehr.

Speaking in the presence of the instructors, personnel, and students of the Naval Sciences University complex in Nowshahr, Shamkhani added: In coordination with these activities and in conjunction with the utilization of efficient elements in sensitive posts, the Navy's missile capability will also be boosted—its defensive equipment—in the second half of the year.

While expressing his appreciation for the services of second Rear Admiral Mohsen Sayyar as head of the Nowashahr University complex during these ceremonies, the commander of the Navy approved the appointment of second Rear Admiral Hoseyn Sarang to replace Sayyar.

Nepal

Talks Between Opposition, Ruling Party Fail

BK1308001093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1753 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Kathmandu, AUG 12 (AFP)—Talks between the ruling Nepali Congress and the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) aimed at heading off a nationwide general strike next month failed Thursday, party sources said.

Each party had assigned three MPs to negotiate after meetings between party leaders failed to make progress on the communists' call for continuing anti-government agitation and a planned nationwide general strike September 9-11.

The government has so far met a number of NCP-UML demands, but has refused the communists' call for the resignation of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and the reinstatement of 240 civil servants sacked for agitation against his government two years ago.

It did agree to compensate the families of those killed by security forces during street protests and to appoint a commission under a supreme court justice to investigate a May 16 incident in which two top communist leaders were killed.

The government said they died accidentally when their jeep plunged into a river, but the communists have said they were killed as part of a conspiracy.

Pradeep Nepal, a NCP-UML MP and one of the delegates in the talks, said later that the "Nepali Congress never took our demands seriously. It only tried to fool us by asking us to call off our planned strike."

The Congress party leader, Ganesh Man Singh, said the government was willing to compromise but could not consider forcing the prime minister to resign.

"This demand cannot be met," he said. "We have accepted eight of the communist faction's 10 demands but we cannot concede to their demand for the removal of our prime minister, who has a public mandate to rule for five years.

"The demand for the removal of Koirala from office is interference in our party affairs and it is also undemocratic in character," Singh told AFP.

"Asking for the reinstatement of the removed civil servants also cannot be accepted as action was taken against them for undisciplined acts," Singh said.

But the NCP-UML said Koirala had told parliament the civil servants would be reinstated.

"Now the Nepali Congress and the Prime Minister Koirala himself are not keeping their promises," Pradeep Nepal said.

Pakistan

Comment Withheld on Reported F-16 'Ultimatum'

BK1208103193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 11—A Foreign Office spokesman refused to comment on a Voice of America report that Pakistan had been given an ultimatum to decide its options on the F-16 issue before August 23.

According to the VOA report published in The Muslim Wednesday, Pakistan has the option either to order a halt in manufacturing of the F-16 aircraft or make payment of the installment which was due in July. Otherwise, the VOA said, Pakistan risks losing all the money it has paid so far.

The Foreign Office spokesman said they had not received the full and official text of the broadcast and were unable to comment on the report. The Foreign Office is likely to make an official comment on Thursday.

Editorial Urges United States To Deliver F-16's

BK1208101993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 12 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The F-16 Issue"]

[Text] At the weekly Press briefing at Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman covered several topics including Kashmir, Bosnia and Pak-US negotiations regarding F-16 aircraft. He said Pakistan is deeply concerned over the ongoing repression in the occupied Kashmir and it is feared that violence in the Valley might escalate. "We call upon the world community", he added, "to act expeditiously to halt the massive violations of human rights in Kashmir which is essential to defuse tension in the region and to build up peace and security through a settlement of the Kashmir dispute on the basis of UN resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri people". Regarding Bosnia, the spokesman said that the government of Pakistan has appealed to NATO countries to fully support the proposal for "enforcement action" against Serbian aggressors if they did not stop their onslaughts. With regard to the F-16 issue, the spokesman expressed the hope that it would be settled amicably.

Pakistan and the United States had signed a 1.4 billion dollar agreement in September 1979 for the supply of 60 F-16 aircraft. The delivery of the first six fighter planes was due in March 1992 but was withheld because of the

Pressler Amendment under which all military aid to Pakistan was cut off in October 1990 on the nuclear issue. Pakistan has already paid 658 million dollars towards the cost of the aircraft and is now paying for their storage as well. These aircraft are essential for the country's defence in view of the huge military build-up of India and the tension over Kashmir. Moreover, India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and is forging ahead with its nuclear programme. Despite Pakistan's repeated assertions that it is prepared to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) simultaneously with India, it has refused to do so. The decision of the United States not to supply the aircraft to Pakistan is, therefore, completely one-sided as it did not take into account Pakistan's justified security concerns. The U.S. team which visited Pakistan earlier this month for negotiations on the issue of F-16 aircraft did not reach any conclusion. Further talks between the two sides are to be held at a later date. With Pakistan having given every possible assurance that its nuclear programme is only directed towards peaceful purpose, there is no reason why America should not do away with the discriminatory Pressler Amendment and supply the F-16 aircraft to Pakistan for which it has already paid under a regular contract.

Editorial Condemns 'Malevolence' in BBC Documentaries

BK1308125493 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 31 Jul 93 p 10

[Editorial: "BBC—Negative Propaganda"]

[Text] The BBC has broadcast a documentary film on the Serb attacks in Bosnia and the violation of human rights of Muslims. The film showed scenes of Bosnian Muslims fleeing their homes, distressed by the brutalities committed by the Serbs. Immediately after the concluding scene, it carried a running commentary [preceding two words in English] on social inequalities and the alleged violations of the rights of women in Pakistan, along with other issues. Through this film, the BBC has attempted to create the impression among the Bosnian Muslims, especially those coming to seek refuge in Pakistan, that the human rights situation in the country in which they were seeking refuge is not much better. Although the attitude of the Western media on social and political developments in Pakistan has always been hostile, disparaging, and one-sided, these media—whose programs are seen in Asia—have exceeded all limits during the past few years, and the BBC has been most notable among them.

Only recently, the BBC telecast a documentary film about the bandits in Pakistan's Sind Province, in which it tried to give the impression that the Hindu population in Sind is no longer safe from the bandits. Through this film, the BBC tried to hand India a weapon to use in its anti-Pakistan propaganda.

The BBC's attempt to create an impression among the Bosnian Muslims that social discrimination exists in a country where they wish to seek refuge, is an example of professional mendacity which must be vehemently condemned. The BBC is absolutely free to express its malevolence toward the Islamic world, but it must keep in mind the requirements of the professional code of ethics in the process.

Minister Demands Bosnia Peace Talks

BK1308031293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Pakistan has demanded the holding of Geneva peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina directly under the supervision of the UN Security Council. Addressing the informal meeting of the 15-member Council in New York, Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar called upon the members to support Pakistan's resolution, which enshrines principles for settlement. The foreign minister, who is leading the Islamic Conference Organization's mission on Bosnia-Herzegovina, said, on behalf of its respective governments and people, the mission has been authorized to express disappointment and regrets for the sorrow and anguish over this tragedy and over the nonfulfillment of the pledges of the international community. He urged the Council not to be insensible and silent spectators but to take decisive steps to implement its decisions, enforce a comprehensive cease-fire, and force Serb troops to pull out from the strategically important hills around Sarajevo.

The Pakistani foreign minister also called on the current Chairman of the Security Council, Madeleine Albright.

Article Explores Role of Foreign Investment

BK1108052393 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Aug 93 p 10

[Text] Pakistan has, like other developing countries, sought the way out of economic malaise through industrialisation. Barring the first few years of the process and the eighties, the industrialisation efforts has been very regressively implemented. Investment allocative decisions taken by strongly entrenched bureaucracy have shown distinct disadvantages.

The illusion that an industrial society is a desirable one is predominant in the less developed countries (LDC's). Those with a high population need a sector which can absorb large employment. Policy makers take it upon themselves to undertake measures to accelerate industrialisation.

Government of the day consider that they have a duty of care towards their countrymen and the nation. Although most of them have laudable objectives, the actual action seems to fall short. We have seen in this country the result of volatile policies which have retarded industrial progress and increased uncertainty. We have also seen policies that have been based on rhetoric and moral

injunctions, clearly the advocacy of these policies have meant insurmountable hurdles in actual implementation. Some policies have been such that governments have been unable to see them through resulting inconsiderable loss of time, effort and financial loss.

Government's preoccupation with industrialisation in many cases leads to a permanent insitutional framework to look after unprofitable industry. A bureaucracy unaware of product requirements feels it can marshal the economy in terms of investment. Incentives, reliefs, and concession become part of the industrial development strategy. This invariably leads to shortage of resources, as we have seen in Pakistan, resulting in excessive borrowing both internally and outside the country. While the capacity to borrow gets saturated, the rhetoric of self-reliance gets louder, and the printing of currency notes becomes significant. Inflation becomes rampant wiping out all savings, and hence little is left for investment. The appetite for investment both domestic and foreign continues to grow.

Foreign investment in developing countries, and Pakistan is one of them, if used appropriately, can play an important role in industrial development and growth of the economy, and can have a significant impact on creation of employment opportunities, stimulation of local enterprises, and result in increased availability of quality goods and services at economical prices.

The number of companies incorporated in Pakistan in which foreigners held interest have increased from 27 to 448, with almost forty new entrants in the year 1989. The branches of foreign firms and companies have also increased to 142. The number of partnerships remain small at about half a dozen.

The total foreign investment in Pakistan which stood at nearly Rupees Three Billion in the early 70's increased to Rupees eight Billion in 1980. In the last decade it has increased from Rupees eight Billion to Rupees forty Billion. In US Dollars terms, the total foreign investments are about Dollars two Billion in 1990 compared to Dollars six hundred million in 1971.

Almost forty percent of this investment is owned by firms or companies registered or incorporated outside Pakistan, and sixty percent joint stock companies incorporated in Pakistan having foreign participants.

Of the total foreign investment of nearly Rupees forty Billion almost forty three percent is in the manufacturing sector and nearly forty percent in commercial activity, mining and quarrying has about 7.5 percent and about 9.5 percent in other activities. The share of manufacturing in the total investment has dropped from about 70 percent in 1984 to 43 percent in 1989 whereas the share of investments in Commerce has increased from 12 percent in 1984 to about 40 percent in 1989.

The other notable change that has occurred is that in 1971 the firms/companies registered or incorporated outside Pakistan, represented only 11.5 percent, whereas Pakistani joint stock companies having foreign participation represented 87.17 percent, of the investment. Today, it is 40 percent for enterprises incorporated outside Pakistan and 60 percent for enterprise incorporated inside Pakistan. The major share of the total foreign investment comes from USA, (22 percent), followed by UK (15.7 percent), International financial institutions (9 percent), Germany (7.70 percent), UAE (5.8 percent), Switzerland (4.54 percent) and Japan (4.5 percent). The net inflow of foreign investment in early 70's for a single year was Rupees twenty-three million ($4.9 Million) in 1947 it was Rupees one hundred and twelve million ($11.3 Million) in 1984 Rupees five hundred million in 1986 Rupees seven hundred and fifty million and in 1989 nearly Rupees four Billion, in 1990 it is around Rupees four and a half Billion (US $200 Million). In the last two years nearly 60 percent, of the investment has been from USA and between 10.12 percent from UK, 6 percent from France and 5 percent from Korea.

The pattern of sectorwise investment is also changing. In the year 1989 investments in Mining and quarrying (Rupees two Billion) have been larger than commerce (Rupees seven hundred and fifty Million) and manufacturing (Rupees three hundred million).

The Government of Pakistan has always attached great importance to the inflow of foreign private investment in accelerating the pace of industrial development in the country. It is, however, necessary to review how these policies have changed over the past four decades.

In the early fifties it was decided that the service sector was to be restricted to local investors and foreign investment would not be allowed in the field of banking, insurance and commerce. However, this policy was later liberalised and foreign banks were allowed to open branches in Pakistan.

Under the Economic Reforms order of 1972, the Government nationalised the large industrial concerns falling within ten major categories of industries. However all foreign investment was exempted from the purview of this order and foreign investment was not touched. After 1977 the Government decided to turn around this policy and opened up a larger Field for private sector investment through a demarcation between public and private sector, within the ten categories earlier reserved for the public sector, under the Economic Reforms Order of 1972. In 1976 and Act of parliament was passed for the promotion and protection of foreign private investment. This was followed by a Presidential Order in 1979 for protection of Industrial property rights of investors.

Then in 1984, a process of deregulation was initiated and a comprehensive industrial policy statement was issued. To encourage foreign private investment in industrial projects involving advanced technology and heavy capital outlay, like engineering, basic chemicals electronic and other capital goods industry. This policy renewed

the role of the private sector, along with continued public sector participation. But even one per cent foreign equity in a project required prior government approval.

A new industrial policy package was introduced in 1988 which was based on the primacy of the private sector. Unprecedented and new incentives were provided in this new package. With the change of government in 1989 it was modified with additional policy initiatives.

In 1989, only projects with more than 49 percent foreign equity required Government approval, but if the cost exceeded Rs. 100 million Government approval was also required. In 1984, Government approval was required for fourteen industries, it was reduced to seven in 1989, it has been further reduced to only four, irrespective of the size of the investment. Outside the four areas no approval is required however large the ceiling.

Sri Lanka

President's Newly Reshuffled Cabinet Listed

BK1208130893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Colombo, Aug 12 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan cabinet after Thursday's reshuffle by President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge who was elected on May 7, following the assassination of his predecessor Ranasinghe Premadasa:

- President, Minister of Policy Planning and Implementation, Finance and Defence and Buddha Sasana (Buddhist order): Dingiri Banda Wijetunge
- Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Science and Technology: Ranil Wickremasinghe
- Transport and Highways: T. Wijayapala Mendis
- Justice: Harold Herath
- Environment and Parliamentary Affairs: Wimal Wickremasinghe
- Education, Higher Education and Culture: W.J.M. Lokubandara
- Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs: Festus Perera
- Tourism and Rural Industrial Development: S. Thondaman
- Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Social Welfare: P. Dayaratne
- Fisheries and Aquatic Resources: Joseph Michael Perera
- Ports and Shipping: Alick Aluvihare
- Youth Affairs and Sports: C. Nanda Mathew
- Trade and Commerce: A.R. Munsoor
- Handlooms and Textile Industries: U.B. Wijekoon
- Health and Women's Affairs: Renuka Herath
- Posts and Telecommunications: A.M.S. Adhikari
- Housing and Construction: Sirisena Cooray
- Plantation Industries: Rupasena Karunatilleke
- Power and Energy: K.D.M.C. Bandara
- Foreign Affairs: Shahul Hameed
- Food and Cooperatives: Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi
- Agricultural Development and Research: R.M. Dharmadasa Banda
- Constitutional Affairs: K. N. Choksy
- Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli: Gamini Athukorale
- Labour and Vocational Training: M. L. Aboosally
- Information and Broadcasting: Tyronne Fernando